

71.2009, 025. 05143



# Indiana Memorials

## Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial Brochures

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the  
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2014

[https://archive.org/details/indianamemorialsinc\\_2](https://archive.org/details/indianamemorialsinc_2)

# LINCOLN BOYHOOD



*National Memorial • Indiana*



# LINCOLN BOYHOOD



*National Memorial • Indiana*

# ON THIS INDIANA FARM ABRAHAM LINCOLN GREW FROM YOUTH INTO MANHOOD

In the fall of 1816 a compact, dark-haired frontiersman toiled along a narrow trace leading through the dense forest of southern Indiana. Sixteen miles in from the Ohio, he came upon a scattering of dwellings lying just south of Little Pigeon Creek, in a region of towering hardwoods, plentiful game, and good water. Choosing a quarter-section (160 acres) of Government-surveyed land for a homestead, he marked the corners with brush piles and notched the largest trees. Then he set out on the long trek back to his farm in Kentucky to settle his affairs and bring his family to their new wilderness home.

For Thomas Lincoln—once a wandering laborer but now a carpenter and backwoods farmer—Indiana offered a fresh start. Here a man might own good soil, free of title disputes and the taint of slavery. Three times previously he had lost land in Kentucky because of title flaws, and others had claimed the fruits of his labor. Moreover, settlers were crowding in and slavery and the slave controversy were on the increase in his neighborhood. So he turned his eyes across the Ohio, to vast, new lands which held the promise of a better life.

Thomas Lincoln had worked hard at homesteading since he had married young Nancy Hanks in a small Kentucky crossroads named Beech Fork in 1806. They made their first home in Elizabethtown, a restless frontier village where Thomas worked as a carpenter and owned property. Sarah, their first child, was born here in 1807. Then a year and a half later the Lincolns moved south to settle on a newly purchased farm along the South Fork of Nolin Creek, near Hodgden's mill.

Father, mother, and daughter reached the farm in mid-winter, shortly before the second child was due. Working quickly on a hill above a clear spring, Thomas built a crude, one-room log cabin with a dirt floor, a stick-and-clay chimney, and a single window. Here on a Sunday morning, February 12, 1809, in primitive and unpromising circumstances, a son was born to Nancy and Thomas Lincoln. They named him Abraham after his grandfather.

The Lincolns lived at this farm for only some 2 years. It was barren, unyielding ground, and when a dispute arose over title to the land, Thomas again moved his family, this time to a new farm of 230 acres along the bottom lands of Knob Creek.

Here was far more inviting country. The Lincoln place lay just within the hill region, and farm clearings with their little cabins dotted the fertile valleys. Corn grew high, and the forest gave abundantly.

Within a year or two, Nancy gave birth to another son, Thomas, who lived only long enough to receive his father's name. This was the last child born to the couple, and little Abraham retained only the dimmest recollection of the infant. But other impressions of his life here remained vivid. He remembered an old stone fort and a great poplar that stood along the family route to the gristmill. He remembered his boyhood companions and carrying water to the cabin and a vast rain that washed away pumpkin seeds that he had so carefully planted the day before. Once he caught a fish and gave



it to a passing soldier; another time he fell into the creek and was barely pulled out in time. And he never forgot the names of his first teachers—Zachariah Riney, a Catholic, and Caleb Hazel, an avowed opponent of slavery—whose A.B.C. schools he attended for a few months.

For 5 years Thomas Lincoln farmed his land on Knob Creek, paying his bills, performing his public duties, and supporting his family as well as other men of his station in life. The increase of slavery bothered him. Yet it was not slavery that drove him from Kentucky, but land titles. In 1816 the heirs of an earlier landowner brought an ejectment suit against him and nine of his neighbors, claiming prior rights to the land. That fall, while the suit was still pending in court, he made up his mind to move to Indiana where he could hold his land without fear. When Thomas returned from his scouting trip, he gathered all their possessions and the family started for the river crossing. It was December and Abraham was 7. Abraham later remembered the trip to the farm site as one of the hardest experiences of his life. After crossing the Ohio at Thompson's ferry and following an old wagon road for 12 miles, they had to hack out the last distance through dense underbrush. It was now early winter. With the help of neighbors Thomas cleared a spot on high ground and put up a log cabin, finishing it within several weeks. Then came an incident that left a deep mark on the young boy. A few days before Abraham's eighth birthday, a flock of wild turkeys approached the cabin. Standing inside, he fired his father's rifle through a crack and dropped one. "He has never since," he wrote many years later, "pulled a trigger on any larger game."

The family lived mostly on game and bartered corn and pork that first winter, until Thomas could clear enough ground for his first crop. Abraham was large for his age, and his father put an ax into his hands at once. Year by year they hacked away at the forest, eventually bringing under cultivation some 40 acres of corn, wheat, and oats. They also kept sheep, hogs, and a few cattle. Almost a year passed before Thomas entered the title to his farm. In October 1817 with one crop in, he rode 60 miles to the land office in Vincennes and deposited \$16 on two tracts of 80 acres each. Two months later he paid \$64 more, bringing the amount to one-fourth of the total price of \$320. (Not until 1827 would he completely pay for his land. He did it then by relinquishing the east 80 acres as payment for the west 80, a common practice of the day. He also owned 20 acres that adjoined the west 80.)

That fall some of Nancy's kinfolks joined the Lincolns. Driven out of Kentucky by a similar ejectment suit, Thomas and Elizabeth Sparrow—her uncle and aunt—with their 18-year-old nephew Dennis Hanks, followed the Lincolns into Indiana and moved into a rough shelter on the farm until they could find land and settle. Their coming cheered Nancy and gave young Abe a companion and Thomas another workhand.

Within a year both Sparrows lay dead, victims of the dread "milk sickness" that swept through southwestern Indiana in the late summer of 1818. No doctors lived nearby, and there were no remedies in any case. Thomas fashioned two coffins and laid them

away on a wooded knoll a quarter of a mile south of the cabin. A few days later Nancy caught the disease and died on October 5, 1818, after a week of fever. Once more Thomas hammered together a coffin, and once more he trudged through the woods to the knoll, where without ceremony he buried his wife alongside the Sparrows. Abraham was only 9 and Sarah only 11. "She knew she was going to die," related Dennis Hanks years later, "and called up the children to her dying side and told them to be good & kind to their father—to one another and to the world. . . ."

Nancy Hanks Lincoln lived and died according to the ways of the frontier, known only to her family and a few neighbors. The details of her ancestry, her appearance, the kind of wife and mother she was—these and other facts still remain obscure. Those who knew her spoke long afterwards of her good sense and affectionate and deeply religious nature. There is no reason to doubt these judgments, nor that with her death the family fortunes slipped to their lowest ebb.

Young Sarah now took over the household chores, while Thomas and the boys hunted and tended to the farming. As the months stretched on, the four sank into a rough, haphazard existence. When Thomas could no longer stand the loneliness, he journeyed back to Kentucky for another wife, and found her in Sarah Bush Johnston, a widow with three children.

On December 2, 1819, they were married in Elizabethtown. After loading a four-horse wagon with her goods—pots, pans, blankets, a feather bed, a bureau, and books, which seemed like plenty compared to their lot in Indiana—he drove them back to the farm on Little Pigeon Creek.

Thomas had chosen well. The cheerful and orderly Sarah proved to be a kind stepmother, raising Abraham and Sarah as her own. Under her guidance the two families merged easily, and Thomas went to work with new energy, repairing the crowded cabin and clearing more land for crops.

Abraham was 11 now, a dark-complexioned, rawboned farm boy growing rapidly. From his companions we have a picture of a healthy, good-humored, obliging youth with a love of talking and of listening to talk. He had his share of mischief, but he seems to have absorbed the best side of the frontier while rejecting the worst. He became expert with the ax and worked alongside his father in the fields and the carpentry shop. Often his father sent him to the mill to grind the family grist. (Two years earlier, at Noah Gordon's horse mill a mile south of the Lincoln cabin, he was kicked in the head and knocked senseless, "apparently killed for a time" in his words.) Occasionally he was hired out to work for others. Yet he never cared for manual labor.

What he did care for was words and ideas and books. In Indiana, as in Kentucky, his schooling came "by litters." During the winter of 1819-20 he attended Andrew Crawford's subscription school held in an unheated log cabin a mile south of the Lincoln cabin. Stern but capable, Crawford taught not only the elements of reading, writing, and arithmetic but also etiquette, or "manners" as they called it. Two years later James Swaney opened a school on a farm 4 miles distant, but Abraham went for only a few weeks and got little out of it.







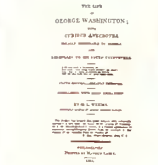
The traditional birthplace of Abraham Lincoln.



Poisonous milkweed, whence came the dreaded "milk sickness."



Little Pigeon Baptist Church, which the Lincolns attended in Indiana.



A book which greatly moved young Abraham.

Abraham grew up in Indiana. A lanky, good-humored youth, liked by all, he helped his father with the farming, hacked away at the forest with his ax, attended the occasional schools in the community, and read incessantly. Uninterested in labor, he passed long hours in talk. At 16 he worked for a few months on a farm along the Ohio. Three years later he rode a flatboat down the Mississippi to New Orleans and first glimpsed a wider world.



A page from A's sum New Salem as Lincoln knew it, assembled in Indiana. It is a plot made in 1866.

# THE FORMATIVE YEARS



The Lincoln family Bible.

Thomas Lincoln



The Statehouse at Springfield.

# EARLY POLITICAL CAREER



A. L. in 1847.



Mary Todd Lincoln

"It is great folly to attempt to make anything out of me or my early life," wrote the candidate to a supporter. "It can all be condensed into a single sentence, and that sentence you will find in Gray's Elegy: 'The short and simple annals of the poor.' That's my life and that's all you or anyone else can make out of it."

Abraham Lincoln, elected 16th President of the United States soon after penning these lines, aptly summed up his humble beginnings. He was born on February 12, 1809, in a log cabin on the Kentucky frontier. His parents—Thomas Lincoln, a carpenter and backwoods farmer, and Nancy Hanks, a shadowy figure of obscure lineage—were hardworking and religious but without schooling. When Abe was 2, his father took his family to another, more fertile farm 10 miles north. This was the Knob Creek place, and the boy long remembered his years here. He swam in the creek with companions, attended A.B.C. schools with his sister Sarah for a few months, and accompanied his father on chores.

In Abe's 7th year, title troubles again drove his father off his farm. Seeking secure land—and his son said later—free soil, Thomas carried his family into the Indiana wilderness and settled near Little Pigeon Creek. Two years later, in 1818, Abe's mother died, a victim of the terrible "milk sickness," and the family sank into a rough existence from which it did not emerge until Thomas remarried.

His new wife was Sarah Bush Johnston, a widow with three children. Cheerful and energetic, she brought a new tone to the Lincoln cabin and raised the boy and his sister as her own.



Sarah Bush Lincoln



An Ohio River steamboat, The General, in 1818.



Lincoln's surveying equipment.

In 1830 the Lincolns moved once more. Lured by reports of rich black soil, they piled all their goods into wagons and set out for Illinois. Soon they reached a spot on the banks of Sangamon River, a few miles from Decatur. Abraham was now 21, free to come and go as he chose, but he stayed with his family for a year, breaking ground, splitting rails, and planting corn. After another trip down the Mississippi, he drifted into New Salem, a thriving village.

For a while he clerked in Offutt's store. When it failed, he grasped at a new opportunity. Encouraged by his friends he ran for the State legislature, advocating a variety of public improvements. Though he lost the election, he carried his own neighborhood by 277 votes to 7, a source of great pride for many years after.

# ABRAHAM LINCOLN



1809-1865

Springfield, the new State capital. Licensed an attorney the year before, he formed a partnership with the able John T. Stuart and soon dipped into local politics. After marrying Mary Todd, a Kentucky belle, in 1842, he settled down in earnest to the law.

From 1847-49 Lincoln served in Congress. He worked hard in office, but his opposition to the Mexican War proved totally unpopular back home, and he was passed over for re-nomination. Sadly he returned to Springfield, and resumed his law practice. Honest, shrewd, and effective before juries, he soon rose to the first rank of the Illinois bar. Over the next 5 years Lincoln devoted much time to studying the American past and the looming issue of slavery.



Lincoln's most celebrated law case: the defense of young "Doc" Armstrong in 1838.

Roused by the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, he emerged from political retirement to grapple with Stephen A. Douglas, who advocated in Congress doctrines that would allow the introduction of slavery into the western territories. Their first skirmish came in 1854. Arguing that Douglas should be restrained to its present domain, Lincoln marshaled history and logic to counter Douglas' theory of "popular sovereignty." It was the first great speech of his career.



Stephen A. Douglas



A handbill for a political meeting held during the Lincoln-Douglas debates.

Two years later, another address, this time to a State Convention of the new Republican party, again brought him wide attention. He was now enough of a national figure to be seriously considered for the Republican vice-presidential nomination. In 1858 Lincoln challenged Douglas for his Senate seat.



The home in Springfield.

For 3 months they ranged Illinois debating the issue of freedom in the territories. Lincoln exposed the inconsistencies in Douglas' arguments, while disavowing abolitionism himself. Douglas won the election, but the contest lifted the tall prairie lawyer once more into national prominence.

Early in 1860 Lincoln journeyed east to lecture in New York City. He called for the exclusion of slavery from the territories, deplored efforts to destroy the Union, and urged friendship toward the South. The speech was a triumph, and the number of his supporters grew. When his rivals proved weak in the national convention, Lincoln was nominated for the Presidency on the third ballot.

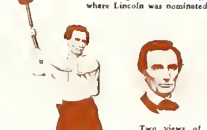


A political rally at the Lincoln home in August 1860.



A power for the 1860 campaign.

From his doorstep in Springfield Lincoln ran a quiet campaign, receiving delegations and political leaders while avoiding speeches and stamping. In November 1860 the Nation voted. Lincoln won a large electoral majority (180 votes to 123 for his three opponents), but he polled less than half of the popular vote. The South voted almost solidly against him.



The Wigwam in Chicago, where Lincoln was nominated.



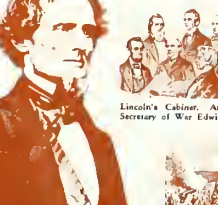
Two views of Lincoln the candidate.

"The fiery trials through which we pass will light us down, to honor or dishonor, to the last generation."

SECOND ANNUAL MESSAGE TO CONGRESS



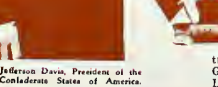
The first inaugural ceremony, beneath the undisturbed Capitol dome.



Lincoln's Cabinet. At right is Secretary of War Edwin Stanton.



The bombardment of Fort Sumter, April 12-14, 1861.



Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederate States of America.



Lincoln confers with McClellan, just after the battle of Antietam.



An 1864 political cartoon, pointing toward the task of reunion.

When Lincoln took office on March 4, 1861, secession was an accomplished fact. The lower South had withdrawn from the Union and set up a rival government. The gun roared first at Fort Sumter, turning back Lincoln's relief expedition. Both sides called for troops, more Southern States seceded, and the Nation plunged headlong into civil war.

The fighting went badly at first for the North. Plagued by poor generalship, the Federal army in the East was roundly trounced in 1861 and through most of 1862. George B. McClellan's repulse of Robert E. Lee at Antietam Creek was the solitary

# THE WAR YEARS



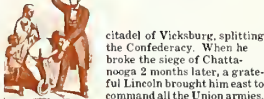
Gettysburg, 1863: "The world can never forget what day that day has been."

bright spot. But at Fredericksburg in late 1862 and at Chancellorsville in the spring of 1863 the North again suffered large-scale and critical defeats.

This was Lincoln's darkest hour. After Antietam, he had issued the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring free all slaves in rebel territory, but words could not substitute for victories. Now Lee was marching northward again. In July the armies clashed at Gettysburg, and Lee retreated with bloody losses. As the North rejoiced, more good news came from the West. Stubby, quiet-spoken Ulysses S. Grant captured the strategic



McClellan House, Appomattox, Va.

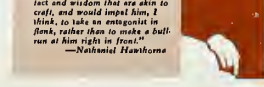


The Emancipation, as the plain people saw it.

In May 1864, while another Union force set out across Georgia, Grant advanced southward, bent on destroying Lee's army. Lee fought desperately in the Wilderness and at Spotsylvania. Casualties mounted, and quick victory seemed far away as ever.

"The whole physiognomy is as coarse as one as you would meet anywhere in the length and breadth of the States; but within, it is redeemed, illuminated, softened, and brightened by a kindly though intense look out of the eyes, and an expression of kindly sympathy, that seems weighted with rich results of village experience. A great deal of native sense; no bookish cultivation, no refinement; honest at heart, and thoroughly so, and yet, in some ways, at least, endowed with a sort of tact and wisdom that are akin to craft, and would imply him, I think, to take an antagonist in hand, rather than to make a dull run at him right in front."

—Nathaniel Hawthorne



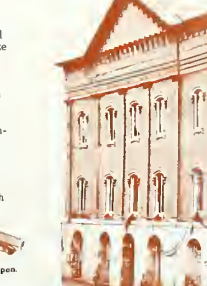
Ulysses S. Grant

The summer of 1864 was one of Lincoln's most difficult. Peace negotiations were begun, but fell through. There was discord in the Cabinet, and in August Lincoln broke with the Radicals in Congress. He soon came to believe that he had no chance of winning reelection.

Yet the tide was slowly turning. Two days after the Democrats nominated McClellan for the Presidency, Atlanta fell to Sherman and Northern morale soared. Lincoln won the November election easily, carrying 22 of the 25 participating States.

The war was fast drawing to a close as Lincoln began his second term. Lee was bottled up at Petersburg; Sherman's swath of destruction had badly crippled the South; slavery was dead. Lincoln's concern now was the reconciliation of the two sections. In his inaugural address he described the war as a visitation from God and—mellowed and deepened by the ordeal—pleaded for peace without malice.

On April 9 Lee surrendered to Grant at Appomattox. Three days later a torchlight procession called at the White House. Instead of a victory speech, Lincoln gave them his moderate views on reconstruction. It was the last public address of a compassionate man. On April 14 he and Mrs. Lincoln went to the theater. During the third act an assassin slipped into the Lincoln's box, shot the President in the head, leaped onto the stage before a startled audience, and fled into the darkness. Soldiers carried the slumped figure across the street to a boardinghouse and laid him across a bed. Surgeons worked over Lincoln all night, but he never regained consciousness. The next morning death came to the man whom power had emboldened.



The assassin's weapon.



Guard patrol outside a creped Ford's Theatre, where Lincoln was shot.



A people's tribune.

Then in his 15th year he attended Azel Dorsey's school. Dorsey was well-trained, and under him Abraham probably received his best instruction. Years later Dorsey could still remember the boy as "marked for the diligence and eagerness with which he pursued his studies, [he] came to the log-cabin schoolhouse arrayed in buck skin clothes, a racoon-skin cap, and provided with an old arithmetic." A few scraps of his schoolwork survive, among them several pages of figures and a folk couplet that reads:

"Abraham Lincoln, his hand and pen  
he will be good but god knows when."

Altogether, he spent less than a year in school.

"There was absolutely nothing to excite ambition for education," he declared later of his schooling in Indiana. Still, there gradually emerged a love of reading and a passion for knowledge that lasted a lifetime. He mastered the familiar classics of his day: *The Bible*, *Aesop's Fables*, *The Pilgrim's Progress*, *Robinson Crusoe*, *Franklin's Autobiography*, and a score of others. Once he borrowed *Ramsey's Life of Washington* from Joshua Cravens, a neighbor, but the rain ruined it, and had to be stripped of for two days. When he was 11, he read *Parson Weems' Washington*. Forty years later, standing before the New Jersey legislature as President-elect of the United States, he recalled Weems' heroic tales:

"Away back in my childhood, the earliest days of my being able to read, I got hold of a small book . . . *Weems's Life of Washington*. I remember all the accounts there given of the battle fields and struggles for the liberties of our country, and how I fired themselves upon my imagination so deeply as the struggles here in Trenton, New Jersey. The crossing of the river; the contest with the Hessians; the great hardships endured at that time, all fixed themselves on my memory more than any single revolutionary event."

There were other influences as well. The boy had a good memory and a ready wit. Laying aside his work, he would often entertain friends with jests and imitations of politicians and preachers, the big men in his community. And at Gentry's store, down the road a mile and a half, he and Dennis Hanks passed long hours in talk and storytelling.

The part that religion played in his life during these years is less easy to place. In 1821 his father supervised construction of a new meetinghouse for Little Pigeon Baptist Church—an outpost of enthusiastic Protestantism—and Abe probably worked with him. Two years later both parents joined the church, Thomas by letter and Sarah "by experience." That year Abe served as sexton, which required his attendance whenever the church was open. He never joined, as his sister did just before her marriage, but on the frontier, young, unmarried persons rarely undertook church membership.

Abe first glimpsed a wider world when he went to work at 16 on the farm of James Taylor on the banks of the Ohio. For \$6 a month he plowed, split rails, slaughtered hogs, and operated Taylor's ferry across the mouth of Anderson River. The life of a keelboatman had no appeal to him—it was the roughest work a young man could be made to do, he said later—but it exposed him to the vast spectacle of boats and people passing constantly along the Ohio.

While working here Abe earned the first money that belonged to him rather than to his parents. In his spare time he built a scow to take passengers out to steamers on the Ohio. One day he rowed out two men and placed them on board with their trunks. To his surprise each threw him a silver half-dollar. "I could scarcely credit," he said, "that I, poor boy, had earned a dollar in less than a day." His ferrying stint led to a dispute with the Dill brothers, who ran a ferry on the Kentucky side of the river. Charging that Lincoln infringed ferry rights granted them by their State, they haled him before Samuel Fate, a Kentucky justice of the peace. Fate dismissed the suit when the boy pointed out that he had not taken anyone across the river but only to the middle.

By his 19th year Abe had reached his full growth. Six feet, four inches tall and weighing over 200 pounds, he stood out in any gathering. He could wrestle with the best, and witnesses reported that he could

hoist more weight and drive an ax deeper than any man around. He was ready when the chance came to take his first long journey. James Gentry, the richest man in the community, hired Abe to accompany his son Allen to New Orleans in a flatboat loaded with produce. Down the Ohio they floated and into the Mississippi, passing the time in talk, watching the river traffic, and working the poles to avoid sandbars. The only incident occurred along the Louisiana coast. While tied up along shore one night, an armed band of Negroes bent on plunder stole on board and attacked the sleeping boatmen. In a wild fight the two youths drove them off, cut cable, and drifted on downriver. At New Orleans they sold their cargo and the flatboat and rode a steamer back home. For his 3 month's work Abe earned \$24.

Back in Indiana, Abe must have contrasted the rich, bustling spectacle of New Orleans with the routine of farm life. He returned to his familiar chores of plowing, cutting timber, and helping with carpentry. He clerked for a while at Gentry's store, and he read more than ever. When court was held in nearby towns, Abe would attend and—some said—take notes. It was during this period that he borrowed from his good friend David Turnham the *Revised Laws of Indiana*, the only lawbook he is known to have read before leaving the State.

Sometime in late 1829 the Lincolns decided to quit Indiana for the fertile prairies of Illinois. A year earlier John Hanks, a cousin of Nancy, had moved to Macon County in central Illinois. Now he was sending back glowing reports of the opportunities on the rich, easily cultivated prairie. Thomas needed little persuasion. In 14 years he had wrung only a modest living from his acres. The family also feared a new outbreak of the "milk sickness."

Preparations began in September. Returning to Elizabethtown, Ky., Thomas and Sarah sold her last property there, a house and lot inherited from her first husband. In December the Little Pigeon church granted them a "letter of Dismission," recalled it upon receiving a complaint from another member, then restored it after a meeting which "settled the difficulty," probably a doctrinal one. Thomas is found next in mid-February serving on a committee to straighten out another dispute between members, suggesting that by then he was once more back in good standing. It was his last act as a citizen of the Little Pigeon community. Just a week later, on February 20, 1830, he sold his west 80 acres to Charles Grigsby for \$125. There is also a tradition that Thomas traded his 20-acre tract for a horse—a fair price in those days—and sold to David Turnham all his stock and grain, "about 100 hogs and 4 or 5 hundred bushels of corn."

Piling all their goods into three wagons, the Lincoln family—now grown to 13 persons—pulled slowly away from the homestead, picked up the road to Vincennes about 4 miles north, and plodded steadily toward Illinois. It was March 1, 1830. Atop one of the wagons sat Abraham Lincoln, just turned 21. On March 6 the caravan crossed the Wabash, flooded by spring rains. Within the month they came at last to John Hank's place on the north bank of the Sangamon River, 8 miles west of Decatur. Abraham Lincoln, product of the Kentucky hills and Indiana forests, had reached the prairie country that would claim his next 30 years.



**ABOUT YOUR VISIT**—Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial is on Ind. 162, 2 miles east of Gentryville and 4 miles south of Dale, Ind. The memorial preserves and interprets a portion of the Thomas Lincoln farm and the burial place of Nancy Hanks Lincoln. Trails lead to the Lincoln home site and the cemetery. The cabin on the farm suggests the original in which young Abe Lincoln grew to manhood. The National Park Service, through the use of crops, farm animals, and crafts demonstrations, is making the home site a "living historical farm" in an attempt to add a new depth to the interpretive program.

**ADMINISTRATION**—Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. A superintendent, whose address is Lincoln City, Ind. 47532, is in immediate charge.

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has basic responsibilities for water, fish, wildlife, mineral, land, park, and recreational resources. Indian and Territorial affairs are other major concerns of America's "Department of Natural Resources." The Department works to assure the wisest choice in managing all our natural resources so each will make its full contribution to a better United States—now and in the future.

U. S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



# lincoln boyhood

d. He

loaded  
ippi,  
g the

d band  
eping  
ble,  
go and  
work

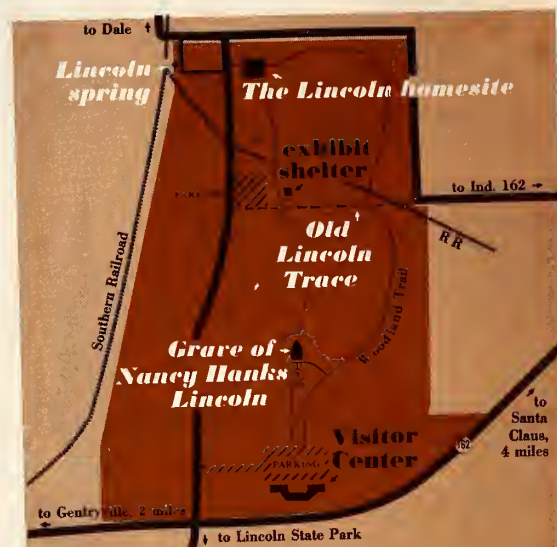
spectacle  
his  
th  
ad more  
attend  
t he  
aws of  
ving

c the  
n of  
ne was  
easily  
ars he  
lso

n, Ky.,  
ot  
eon  
after  
one.  
e to  
that by  
act as  
, on

ed his  
d to  
4 or 5

now  
l, picked  
eadily  
is sat  
rossed the  
e at last  
er, 8  
tucky  
t



**ABOUT YOUR VISIT**—Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial is on Ind. 162, 2 miles east of Gentryville and 4 miles south of Dale, Ind. The memorial preserves and interprets a portion of the Thomas Lincoln farm and the burial place of Nancy Hanks Lincoln. Trails lead to the Lincoln homesite and the cemetery. The cabin on the farm suggests the original in which young Abe Lincoln grew to manhood. The National Park Service, through the use of crops, farm animals, and crafts demonstrations, is making the homesite a "living historical farm" in an attempt to add a new depth to the interpretive program.

**ADMINISTRATION**—Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. A superintendent, whose address is Lincoln City, Ind. 47552, is in immediate charge.

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has basic responsibilities for water, fish, wildlife, mineral, land, park, and recreational resources. Indian and Territorial affairs are other major concerns of America's "Department of Natural Resources." The Department works to assure the wisest choice in managing all our natural resources so each will make its full contribution to a better United States—now and in the future.

**U. S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

☆U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1969—346-120/205

Government Printing Office Washington, D.C. 20402 — Price 10 cents

**Thomas Lincoln's Farm**  
Farming was the way of life for almost all Americans in the early 19th century, and for those on the frontier it was necessary for survival. Thomas Lincoln and his son, Abraham, came from a long line of farming frontiersmen whose methods varied little from those of other pioneers moving west. This diagram and the descriptive passages will give you an idea of the kinds of crops the Lincolns grew, how they raised them, and how their farm was laid out.

### Corn

The easiest plant to care for and the best producer on a new farm was corn. It could be planted among the stumps of a cleared field in unplowed earth and cultivated with a hoe. The first spring the Lincolns were in Indiana they put in 2.5 hectares (6 acres) of corn in an "18 inches and under" clearing. Such a clearing got its name because every tree 18 inches and under in diameter was cut down and the rest left standing to be killed by "girdlin'"—cutting the bark all the way around to prevent the sap from rising. The corn the Lincolns raised grew to heights of 5 to 6 meters (15 to 18 feet). Today's hybrid varieties have sacrificed height for larger and more ears. Beans and pumpkins were planted in the corn rows so they could climb on the corn stalks. The small wildlife and birds were a constant menace to the corn from the time it was planted until it was harvested; squirrels had no competitor for the title of chief menace. What they didn't get was shucked and stored in corn cribs for use in the winter.

### Rails

The Lincolns probably used fences to keep animals out rather than in. That is, fences protected growing crops while the livestock was either hobbled or tethered in the meadow. Hogs often ran wild in the woods, eating nuts and growing fat, a tempting treat for a bear or wildcat. White ash, oak, chestnut, poplar, and walnut made the best rails. Cut in the winter while the sap was down, the tree was halved, quartered, and split into as

**Vegetable Garden**  
Besides raising crops, every frontier family kept a vegetable garden. The most common vegetable was the potato, and occasionally it was the only one served. Potatoes had another use: they were baked and given to children to carry on cold winter mornings to keep their hands warm. Turnips were also common and

sometimes were planted in the fields after the flax had been pulled. Gourds made useful containers, serving as bottles, pans, ladles, and funnels. Huge gourds were used to store seed for the next year's planting, for rats, mice, and squirrels could not chew through the tough shell. Most family gardens also included beans, cucumbers, melons, asparagus, cabbage, onions, broom-corn for making brooms, and herbs for preserv-

atives. Pumpkin was as popular with the farm animals as it was with the people. It was stewed, fried, eaten raw, and made into molasses and pies. Punkin leather, a greek favorite with children, was small dried strips of pumpkin rolled into balls. Tomatoes generally were believed to be poisonous. The women customarily tended the garden between their many household chores.

### Oats

The Lincolns never raised as much oats as they did wheat or corn. The plant did not grow well in the hot, humid climate of southern Indiana and ended up as animal feed.

### Cotton

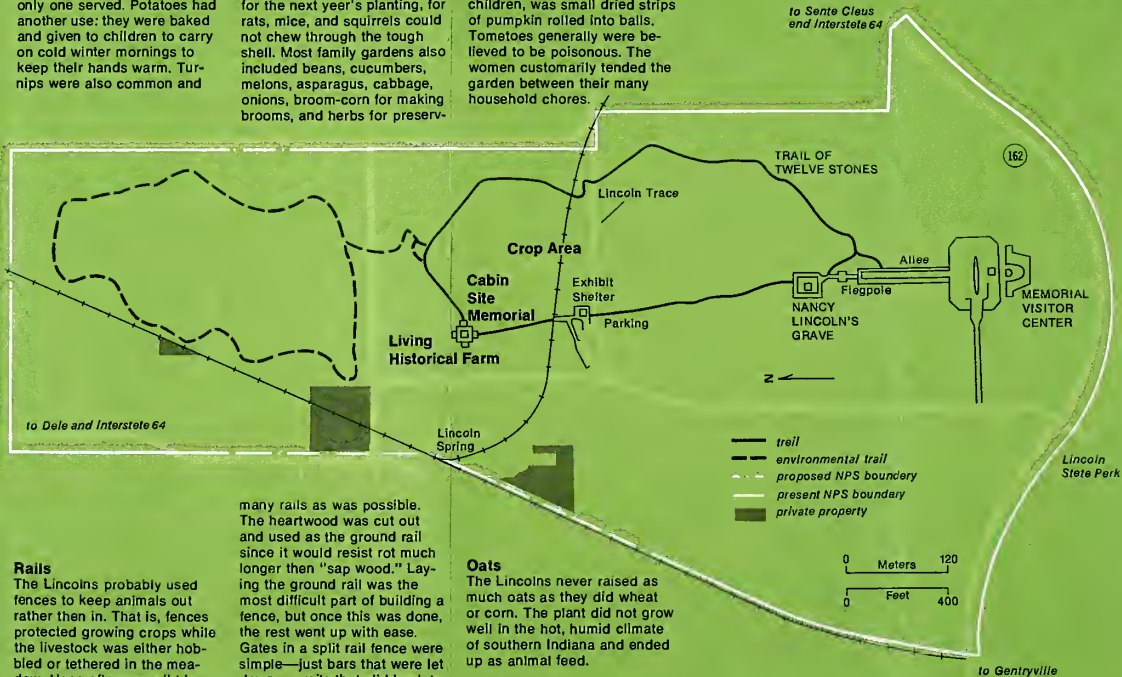
Like flax, cotton was raised for home use only, for southern Indiana could not compete with the large cotton-raising areas further south. A small patch usually sufficed one family's needs.

### Flax

The Lincolns, like everyone else in the area, grew flax for making linen at home. Tradition dictated that the seed be sown on Good Friday. When

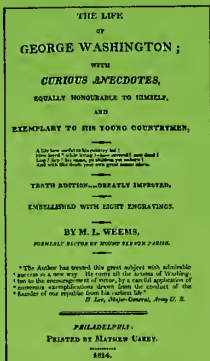
ripe, in late summer, the flax was pulled up by the roots, spread out to dry, and stored for later use. In the fall it was put out to soak and rot in the rains, thereby breaking down the plant fibers that were pulled through various-sized hackles to separate the coarse tow from the usable fibers. They were next spun into thread and woven into cloth. Wool or cotton was often woven together with the linen to make linsey-woolsey, a tough, sturdy fabric that could stand the rigors of wear on the farm.

in enough to produce a good flour grain. In the days when the Lincolns were farming here, it took about half the time to work the same amount of land for wheat as it did for corn, mainly because the cultivating and harvesting were so different. But corn was still the preferred crop because of the many uses that it could be put to—feed for man and beast and an ingredient for making whiskey—and wheat had to be taken to a miller to be ground. Before it could be milled, the wheat grain was threshed with a flail, two sticks joined at one end with a leather thong, and then swung over the head and whecked against the cut grain to break the hulls. Then it was winnowed—tossed into the air so that the lighter husks would blow away while the heavier grain fell to the ground. Then it was ready for milling.



### Wheat

Few farmers in southern Indiana raised wheat for market, but they usually sowed enough for their own use. As it was, they had to wait 7 to 10 years for the "new soil" to be broken



When Lincoln was 11 years old, he read Parson Weems' then-popular *Life of George Washington*. This is the title page of an early edition of the book.

## The Lincolns in Indiana

In the fall of 1816 a compact, dark-haired frontiersman toiled along a narrow trace through the dense forest of southern Indiana. Twenty-six kilometers (16 miles) west of the Ohio River he came upon a scattering of dwellings just south of Little Pigeon Creek, in a region of towering hardwoods, plentiful game, and good water. He chose a quarter section (65 hectares/160 acres) of government-surveyed land for a homesite.

For Thomas Lincoln, carpenter and farmer, Indiana offered the hope and promise of a better life, a fresh start. Here a man might own good soil free of title disputes and the taint of slavery. Three times previously, once before his marriage, he had lost land in Kentucky because of title flaws.

In 1806 Thomas Lincoln had married Nancy Hanks near Elizabethtown, Ky. There he worked



hard as a carpenter and there, their first child, Sarah, was born. A year and a half later the Lincolns moved about 24 kilometers (15 miles) south to a farm on Nolin Creek. On February 12, 1809, a son was born; they named him Abraham for his grandfather.

When a dispute arose over the land title two years later, Thomas again moved his family. This time to 94 hectares (230 acres) along the bottom lands of Knob Creek, where young Abraham attended his first school. Within a year or two Nancy bore another son, Thomas, who lived only long enough to receive his father's name.

In 1816 the heirs of an earlier landowner brought an ejectment suit against Thomas Lincoln and nine of his neighbors, claiming prior rights to the land. That fall Lincoln made up his mind to move to Indiana where he could hold his land without fear of losing it. In December the family packed up their belongings and started for the Ohio River at Andersons Ferry. After crossing the river, they followed a wagon road for 19 kilometers (12 miles). The remaining distance to the land which Lincoln had previously laid claim to had to be hacked out by hand. Though Abraham was only 7 years old, he later remembered the trip to Little Pigeon Creek as one of the hardest experiences of his life.

It was now early winter and some kind of housing had to be quickly put up. With the help of neighbors, Thomas cleared a spot on high ground and erected a cabin, finishing it within several weeks. That first winter the family lived mostly on wild game and on what they had brought with them from Kentucky. Abraham was large for his age, and was able to help his father clear the land. In October 1817, Thomas rode 97 kilometers (60 miles) to the land office in Vincennes and deposited \$16 on two tracts of 32½ hectares (80 acres) each. Two months later he paid \$64 more.

Not until 1827 would he completely pay for his land. He did it then by relinquishing the east tract as payment for the west, a common practice of the day. He also purchased an adjoining 8 hectares (20 acres).

In the fall of 1818 Nancy Lincoln died as "Milksick" struck the Little Pigeon Creek settlement. We now know that "Milksick" is poisoning caused by the white snakeroot. It has been called puking fever, sick stomach, the sloes, and the trembles. Illness develops when a person eats the butter or drinks the milk of an animal that has eaten the plant. The illness was most common in dry years when cows wandered from poor pastures into the woods in search of food. In man the symptoms are loss of appetite, listlessness, weakness, vague pains, muscle stiffness, vomiting, abdominal discomfort, severe constipation, bad breath, and finally coma. Recovery is slow and may never be complete. But more often an attack is fatal. And so it was for Nancy Hanks Lincoln. On October 5, 1818, she died. Thomas hammered together a rough wooden coffin and the family buried wife and mother on a wooded knoll south of the cabin. Abraham was only 9 and Sarah 11.



Poisonous  
snakeroot

It must have been a hard blow for the children. Sarah now had to take over all the household chores. Dennis Hanks, an 18-year-old cousin whose parents also had died from milk sickness, lived with them now. This meant extra work but it also meant that Thomas had another pair of hands to help clear the land. But his



wife's absence was painful. Finally, Thomas could not take the loneliness any longer. In November of 1819, he journeyed back to Kentucky in search of a new wife. He found her in Sarah Bush Johnston, a widow with three children. On December 2, 1819, they were married in Elizabethtown, Ky. Thomas had chosen well, for the cheerful and orderly Sarah proved to be a kind stepmother who reared Abraham and Sarah as her own. Under her guidance the two families became one and Thomas went to work with new energy clearing the land for more crops and repairing and improving the crowded cabin.

During the winter when Abraham was 11 he attended Andrew Crawford's subscription school. Two years later he attended, infrequently, a school taught by James Swaney. Then in his 15th year, he attended Azel Dorsey's school. Dorsey was well trained, and under his direction Abraham probably received his best education. Many years later Dorsey could still remember the boy as "marked for the diligence and eagerness with which he pursued his studies, [he] came to the log-cabin school-house arrayed in buckskin clothes, a raccoon-skin cap and provided with an old arithmetic." A few scraps of his schoolwork survived. Among them were several pages of figures and a folk couplet that read:

*Abraham Lincoln, his hand and pen  
he will be good but God knows when.*

"There was absolutely nothing to excite ambition for education," he said later of his schooling in Indiana. Still, there emerged a love of reading and a curiosity for knowledge that lasted a lifetime. The *Bible*, *Aesop's Fables*, *Pilgrim's Progress*, *Robinson Crusoe*, Franklin's *Autobiography*, the classics of the day, were the books he mastered. The boy had a good memory and a ready wit. Laying aside his work, he would often entertain friends with jokes and imitations of politicians and preachers—the pillars of the community. And down the



Sarah Bush  
Johnston  
Lincoln  
1788-1869

road at Gentry's store he and Dennis Hanks passed long hours trading stories or just talking.

By his 19th year Abe had reached his full growth—193 centimeters (6'4") and weighing more than 91 kilograms (200 pounds), he stood out in any gathering. He could wrestle with the best, and local people remembered that he could hoist more weight and drive an ax deeper than any man around.

In late 1828 James Gentry, the richest man in the community, hired Abe to accompany his son Allen to New Orleans in a flatboat loaded with produce. Down the Ohio they floated and into the Mississippi, passing the time in talk, watching the river traffic, and working the poles to avoid sandbars. At New Orleans they sold

their cargo and the flatboat and rode a steamboat back home. For his 3 months' work Abe earned \$24.

Sometime in mid-1829 the Lincolns decided to quit Indiana for the fertile prairies of Illinois. In 14 years Thomas Lincoln had wrung only a modest living from his land. The family also feared a new outbreak of the milk sickness. Preparations began in September. Returning to Elizabethtown, Ky., Thomas and Sarah sold her last property there. On February 20, 1830, he sold 32½ hectares (80 acres) in Indiana to Charles Grigsby for \$125. There is also a tradition that Thomas traded his 8-hectare (20-acre) tract for a horse—a fair price in those days—and sold to David Turnham all his stock and grain, "about 100 hogs and 4 or 5 hundred bushels of corn."

Piling all their goods into three wagons, the Lincoln family pulled slowly away from the homestead, picked up the road to Vincennes about 6½ kilometers (4 miles) north, and plodded steadily toward Illinois. On March 6 the caravan crossed the Wabash, and within the month they came to the north bank of the Sangamon River 13 kilometers (8 miles) west of Decatur. Abraham Lincoln, product of the Kentucky hills and Indiana forests, had reached the prairie country that would claim his next 30 years.



Little Pigeon Baptist Church

### **For Your Safety**

Please stay on established trails. Insect bites, poison ivy, and even an occasional snake may cause you unnecessary discomfort. Look both ways before crossing any roadway. Drivers be alert for hikers and the handicapped.

### **We're Joining the Metric World**

The National Park Service is introducing metric measurements in its publications to help Americans become acquainted with the metric system and to make interpretation more meaningful for park visitors from other nations.

### **Administration**

Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. The park is on Ind. 162, 3.2 kilometers (2 miles) east of Gentryville and 6.5 kilometers (4 miles) south of Dale, Ind. It is open daily 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. year round. The park is closed January 1 and December 25. A superintendent, whose address is Lincoln City, IN 47552, is in immediate charge.

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering the wisest use of our land and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to assure that their development is in the best interests of all our people. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in Island Territories under U.S. administration.

**National Park Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

• GPO: 1982-361-609/315 Reprint 1982



# YOUNG ABE LINCOLN



By Billy Edd Wheeler  
Produced by the Lincoln Boyhood  
Drama Association, Inc.





## *INDIANA'S HISTORICAL OUTDOOR DRAMA* **AN EXCITING E**

Indiana's favorite son, Abraham Lincoln, comes back to his boyhood home in 1987, in an original outdoor drama. You will not want to miss the inspirational story of **YOUNG ABE LINCOLN**. Experience, first hand, Abraham and his family's struggle to make a new life in the dense wilderness of southern Indiana. Laugh at Abraham's boyish tricks and pranks



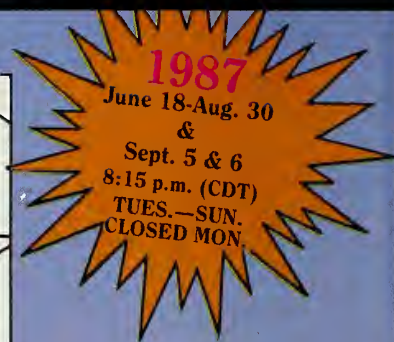


BY *BILLY EDD WHEELER* . . . .

# EXPERIENCE

and mourn the tragic death of his mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln. **YOUNG ABE LINCOLN** will keep you tapping your toes and humming along with the original and delightful music. Patriotic pride swells in your heart as you see Abraham grow from a boy of seven into the strapping young man who is destined to become one of America's greatest leaders --the 16th President of the United States of America.





▶ LINCOLN  
CITY


I would like reservations for

Date \_\_\_\_\_

 \_\_\_\_\_ Premium Reserved @ \$11.00

General Reserved @ \$ 9.00

 \_\_\_\_\_ Premium Reserved @ \$11.00

 \_\_\_\_\_ General Reserved @ \$ 7.00

Enclosed is my check or money order for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

made payable to:

Lincoln Boyhood Drama Assn., Inc.

Box 100, Lincoln City, IN 47552

(812) 937-4493

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

You may charge my:

\_\_\_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_\_\_ MasterCard

Account No. \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Group rates available upon request.

All tickets will be held at the box office. All tickets ordered but not picked up will be released for general sale at 7:30 p.m. (CDT) the evening of the performance.

## STAGE



Produced in cooperation with  
the Tourism  
Development  
Division,  
Indiana Dept.  
of Commerce.





A Brief History  
of  
LINCOLN CITY,  
INDIANA





A commercial center developed around the railroad in Lincoln City. From right to left the buildings shown here are the European Hotel and Restaurant, the Gilbert Egbert saloon, the John McDaniel saloon, and the John Collier post office and lunch room.

Cover Photograph:  
The second Lincoln City depot.

Every year, approximately one-quarter of a million visitors come to Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial. Few of them realize that as they walk the wooded trails and visit the Lincoln farm, they are walking in what was once a platted town, where homes, businesses, and a school once stood.

Lincoln City, Indiana, is one of many towns which developed from the network of railroads which criss-crossed the United States during the late nineteenth century. While these towns were similar, they each had a special person, feature or industry which made them unique. The uniqueness of Lincoln City is that it was laid out on land where the Thomas Lincoln family had lived from 1816 to 1830. It was where Abraham Lincoln lived from age seven to age twenty-one, and where his mother lies buried.

After the Lincolns departed for Illinois, the farm changed ownership frequently and was usually occupied by tenant farmers. The farm buildings decayed or were dismantled, and by the mid-1870s, nothing remained, not even a marker for Lincoln's mother's grave, which might have reminded a visitor that the sixteenth President of the United States had grown up in the area.

In November 1871, the original Thomas Lincoln farm and much of the surrounding land, including the grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, was purchased by Henry Lewis, John Shillito, Robert Mitchell and C.W. West. These four prominent businessmen of Cincinnati, Ohio, had purchased the land in hopes of making a commercial profit. These owners recorded a plat for a new town on their holdings with the Spencer County Recorder on April 23, 1872. The town was named Lincoln City for obvious reasons. The Post Office serving the town, however, was called Kercheval and was not changed to Lincoln City until William Bender (who became postmaster in 1881) successfully petitioned for the name change.

By May 20, 1874, a railroad had been completed from Rockport on the Ohio River, through Lincoln City, to the northern boundary of Spencer County. Soon the tracks continued northward and connected with a major east-west route at Huntingburg, Indiana. Before the end of the century, a spur of the railway was built from Lincoln City southeast to Cannelton and another branch terminating at Evansville connected with the Rockport line just south of Lincoln City. Lincoln City thus became one of the major railroad centers of southern Indiana.

In the early years of the railroad, the 17.3 mile trip from Lincoln City to Rockport took one hour and twenty-two minutes to complete. Rockport was the eighth stop on the trip. In December 1874, we know that a special Saturday round trip fare for such a trip was \$1.25. The line provided a means of transporting the products of the area to markets as well. The train carried coal, and a hogshead of tobacco could be shipped to Rockport for \$1.75. The first railroad depot in Lincoln City was located west of the tracks, but sometime after 1892, a new depot was constructed in the fork between the main line and the Cannelton branch. The railroad dug a fourteen acre reservoir and built a water tower to supply the steam engines of the day with water. The pond was also used as a recreational area for the town's residents.

With the railroad came people and commercial enterprises. Stores were soon opened to supply the needs of residents and railroad workers. William Bender in partnership with William Gaines, A. Jeff Rhodes, John Lipsey, Will Van Winkle, and John Meier were early store owners of Lincoln City. Hotels were built in the town to accommodate the railway travelers. Perhaps the most impressive of these was the European Hotel and Restaurant located directly east of the second depot. About 1914 the Standard Oil Company built a bulk oil station on the railway right-of-way to supply the needs of changing modes of transportation.

At one time Lincoln City had twelve scheduled passenger trains, one every 30 minutes, stopping at the depot. Restaurants and saloons were popular with the travelers on these



trains, and Lincoln City had its share. This was especially due to the local option laws of the pre-prohibition era. Many area communities chose to be "dry" while Lincoln City opted to be very "wet."

The first Lincoln City school was constructed in 1876. Then a large brick school was built around 1900, a few yards west of the site of the Lincoln Cabin. A young Abraham Lincoln probably never dreamed that seventy years after his departure, a railroad and a modern school would have been constructed within two hundred yards of the site of his frontier home. The school was moved once more after the State of Indiana acquired the area to create a memorial to the Lincoln family in 1929. This time a school building was constructed a quarter-mile to the northeast. As in many small towns in Indiana, the school was later closed as a result of school consolidation. However, in 1973, the four million dollar Heritage Hills High School was opened on the east side of Lincoln City to serve students of northern Spencer County.

While the Little Pigeon Baptist Church associated with the Lincoln era remained active south of the town limits, a United Brethren Church was organized in the town in the 1880s. For many years the building was located north of the Cannelton spur railroad on land once owned by the Lincolns. It too had to move with the development of the Nancy Hanks Lincoln Memorial; it was relocated just north of the Memorial grounds. This church later became the Lincoln Memorial United Methodist Church. The congregation disbanded and the building was dismantled in 1977 after the church property was purchased by the National Park Service.

Today little remains of what was once an active railroad town. The first blow to Lincoln City was a fire in 1911. Many of the commercial buildings, including the European Hotel were destroyed. Part of the town was rebuilt, but it never really recovered from the disaster. Later fires destroyed other business buildings, including the second railroad depot. A smaller depot was rebuilt after this fire.

A second factor contributing to the demise of Lincoln City was the decline of rail passenger service. The date of the last such service to the town is not recorded, but by mid-century the passenger trains and the depot had vanished. Today the tracks are still used as part of the Norfolk and Southern line. Lincoln City serves as a switching area for freight trains.

It is ironic that a final reason for the decline of the town is the reason why it became unique originally — Abraham Lincoln had once lived there. As more people came to Lincoln City, more curiosity was displayed about Lincoln's Indiana years. There had been some early interest in marking the grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, but this was not accomplished until November 27, 1879. At this time the Cincinnati businessmen donated one-half acre of land around her grave to Spencer County to be preserved. This cemetery once again became active with a number of burials taking place in the late 1800s. As more interest was created in the cemetery area, the county purchased sixteen acres, all within the town limits, and a park was created. This park was very popular with area Sunday Schools for outings and with Civil War veterans for Grand Army of the Republic reunion encampments. In 1907 the Indiana General Assembly created a state-appointed board to look after the area, and in 1925 it transferred the property to the Indiana Department of Conservation. Frank C. Ball of Muncie, Indiana, purchased thirty acres of the town in 1929, including the cabin site and much of the Lincoln farm, and deeded it to the State. The state removed all houses and buildings and developed the area as the Nancy Hanks Lincoln State Memorial. The state subsequently deeded the land to the National Park Service in 1962 in order to establish Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial. The National Park Service, in two land acquisitions in the 1960s and 1970s, acquired much of the remaining town.

Today, Lincoln City retains its importance on the map of Indiana; not as a lively railroad town, but as the "address" for the parks, memorials, and attractions which commemorate Abraham Lincoln's Hoosier years. With the growing interest in these sites, the Lincoln City area should continue to be one of Indiana's most popular destinations.



This 1927 photograph shows the Lincoln City School and playground. The monument on the left is the Spencer County Monument placed on the Lincoln Cabin site in 1917. The steeple of the United Brethren Church can be seen in the distance.



The entrance to the park surrounding the grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln as it appeared in the 1920s. This entrance was due north of the grave.

This brief history of Lincoln City was printed as part of "Hoosier Celebration '88 — a statewide program to celebrate the richness of Indiana's heritage and to work for a brighter future. Lincoln City has been designated an official Hoosier Celebration '88 Community.



ALL SEATS RESERVED  
Reservations Recommended  
Adults \$8.50 Children \$5.00 (12 & under)  
Come early for the Railsplitter Supper  
Reservations Required  
Adults \$6.50 Children \$4.50  
GROUP DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE

Enjoy the Railsplitter broasted chicken supper, served 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. CDT at the theatre. Reservations required.

Curtain for YOUNG ABE LINCOLN is 8:00 p.m. CDT. All tickets will be held at the Box Office. Pre-paid tickets will be held indefinitely. Non-paid reservations will be held until 7:30 p.m. CDT on the night of the performance. NO REFUNDS for drama or supper tickets.

Mail ticket orders to: YOUNG ABE LINCOLN  
P.O. Box 7-21, Lincoln City, Indiana 47552  
Or call for reservations: (812) 937-4493  
Toll-Free in Indiana 1-800-346-4665



Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ payment for  
Drama # \_\_\_\_\_ adults # \_\_\_\_\_ children  
Supper # \_\_\_\_\_ adults # \_\_\_\_\_ children  
for \_\_\_\_\_ day \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_ month \_\_\_\_\_ performance.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

VISA or MASTERCARD Exp. date \_\_\_\_\_

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to YOUNG ABE LINCOLN

# Billy Edd Wheeler's YOUNG ABE LINCOLN

Musical Outdoor Drama

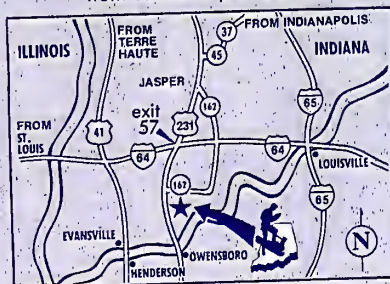
June 14-Aug. 25, 1991 Nightly except Mondays



NO RAIN OUTS  
at the Lincoln Amphitheatre.

YOUNG ABE LINCOLN is easy to find!  
Follow the signs to Lincoln State Park  
off exit 57 on I-64

YOUNG ABE LINCOLN patrons will be  
admitted free to Lincoln State Park  
from 5:30-8:15 p.m. CDT.



YOUNG ABE LINCOLN is produced by the University of Southern Indiana  
for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

# Billy Edd Wheeler's YOUNG ABE LINCOLN

Musical Outdoor Drama

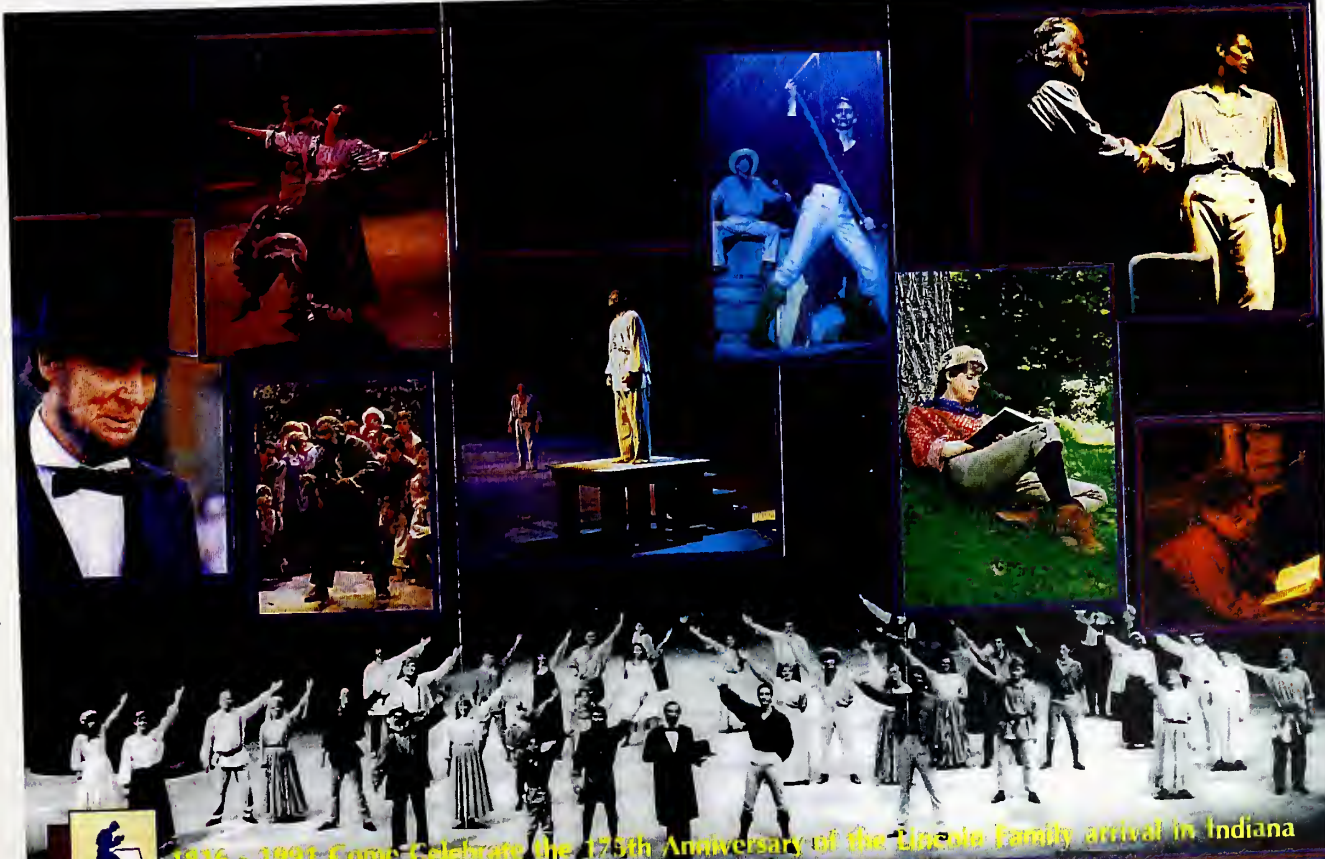
1987

1991

**Fifth  
Anniversary  
Season**



June 14 - August 25, 1991 Nightly except Mondays  
Lincoln State Park, Lincoln City, Indiana



Music, history and patriotism fill the cool night air each summer as the long-legged boy, named Abraham grows from a curious lad of 7 to a strapping young man of 21.

Share Abe's enthusiasm for books and learning. Laugh at his boyish pranks. Mourn the tragic death of his mother. Feel the excitement of Abe's flatboat trip down the Mississippi to New Orleans.

Witness history where it actually happened as YOUNG ABE LINCOLN faces the rigors of frontier living and becomes the man destined to be one of our nation's greatest leaders.



# A Music Drama of Lincoln's Boyhood For Indiana

In the past forty-five years literally millions of visitors to the Lincoln Boyhood State and National Parks near Lincoln City, Indiana have enjoyed a unique experience of the early years of Abraham Lincoln. They have walked the trails that he trod as a boy and young man during his seven to twenty-one years. They have seen the site of his log cabin home and shared the experience of a typical pioneer homestead farm. At the Memorial Building, they have learned the history of his years here in Southern Indiana through film and exhibits and from tour guides. In an effort to focus these rich experiences for the visitors, project planning is in progress for an outdoor music drama, based on the early years of the young Abe.

Drama, because of its unusual quality of shared experience, can teach and inform, as well as inspire and touch deeply the lives of an audience. Outdoor drama adds the further enrichment of recreational enjoyment, coupled with a sense of pilgrimage, when the site is an historical one. All of these advantages are potentially present at the Lincoln Boyhood Parks.

In addition to these cultural and aesthetic gains, outdoor drama, since its beginnings in 1937, has brought to the locality of the performance significant added annual revenue. An outdoor music drama can be for a community not only an expression of pride in its local heritage but the source of economic development as well.

The Lincoln Boyhood outdoor drama will be unique, as the only professional outdoor

drama in the State of Indiana and the only one anywhere based on the early life of Abraham Lincoln.

*How did the idea develop?*

**T**HE Lincoln Boyhood Drama Association, Inc., the governing body of the project, grew out of the interest and determination of the Lincoln Club of Southern Indiana, a member of the Women's Federated Clubs of Indiana. The charter for this not-for-profit corporation was issued by the Secretary of State on September 16, 1977. During the ensuing years, the Association has strengthened its organization with active planning committees. A feasibility study was made by the Institute of Outdoor Drama of Chapel Hill, North Carolina in 1979. Encouraged by the results of the study, the Association has engaged as playwright Billy Edd Wheeler, of Swannanoa, North Carolina. A search is in progress for the music drama's producer-director, as well as for State and local financial support for the project.

*What needs to be done?*

**I**N addition to a script of professional quality, the outdoor music drama project includes the construction of an outdoor theater facility to be located in Lincoln State Park in close proximity to the National Park Memorial, to be supervised and maintained by the Division of Indiana State Parks. The facility will provide for a maximum capacity audience of 1500, together with an appropriate parking area and refreshment and local craft souvenir shops. The stage, suited to the demands of the script, will be provided with adequate dressing and make-up rooms and associated business offices and ticket booth. A roof system covering the audience seating and stage

areas is planned, in order to avoid rain interruption of the fifty-two night run of the drama during the summer months. A budget of one million dollars has been assigned to the project.

*Who will create the music drama?*

**B**ILLY EDD WHEELER, actor, poet, playwright and folk-song composer, has been most recently associated with folk-singer Kenny Rogers in the filming of *The Coward of the County*, which is also the title of Wheeler's song popularized by Rogers. A native of Whitesville, W. Va., Wheeler graduated from Berea College in Kentucky and studied playwriting at Yale's School of Drama. His songs have been recorded by Glen Campbell, Johnny Cash, Judy Collins, Bobby Goldsboro, Pat Boone, Nancy Sinatra and others. Wheeler is a Lincoln enthusiast and hopes to create for the Lincoln Parks an outdoor music drama that will charm the summer visitors and be an inspiration to the young people of Lincoln's own age when he lived in Spencer County.

*How will the music drama be funded?*

**O**UTREACH is an important key to effective outdoor drama planning and management. The Association is attempting to provide the project with a broad base of tax deductible financial support, which looks to Federal grants and State support programs, as well as foundations, industry, and private contributions. A strong membership affiliation is envisioned as the solid continuing support for the project. The following levels of membership are available.

Regular annual membership—\$25.00  
Sustaining annual membership—\$50.00  
Supporting membership—\$500.00

Lincoln Boyhood Drama Ass'n.  
Lincoln City, IN 47552



"When I was growing up in Southern Indiana, Lincoln State Park was a source of great pride and enjoyment for me and my friends. The thought of an outdoor theatre there is very exciting, and I wish you great success with it."

—FLORENCE HENDERSON



"There is no better example of the axiom that 'as the twig is bent, so inclineth the tree' than that which occurred at Dale, Indiana 1816-1830. This was the bending-twig-time in the life of one of the world's greatest men—A. Lincoln. But the 'Bending of the twig' in Indiana has been woefully neglected. 'Now comes, bless them, a group of dedicated citizens from the area in which he spent the 14 formative years, determined to correct this situation. They seek and richly deserve the spiritual and economic support of all persons, in and out of the State of Indiana, who are interested in this worthy cause.'

—LEE NORVELLE

"Lincoln's years in the hills of Southern Indiana were of crucial importance to the formation of his character. This is too little realized by the nation and the world. The drama will help to rectify this omission."

—HERMAN B. WELLS

"Construction of an amphitheatre in Lincoln State Park for the purpose of presenting an outdoor drama based upon the Indiana life of Lincoln would be a most desirable and worthwhile project. I hope that people will be generous in their response and that this splendid project can be funded and completed."

—OTIS R. BOWEN, M.D.

"Because we wanted to participate in the preservation of Spencer County's important Lincoln heritage, we restored the historic Colonel William Jones house, a National Register property in Gentryville. We are pleased that the Jones house-museum is now being used to help promote development of the Lincoln Boyhood Drama. The drama will be the ideal culmination of the hopes of Indiana citizens to honor Lincoln and the people and places that shaped him."

—WILLIAM A. AND GAYLE COOK

"I have a wonderful feeling about this musical drama project! In fact, I've never felt so positive about a new play before."

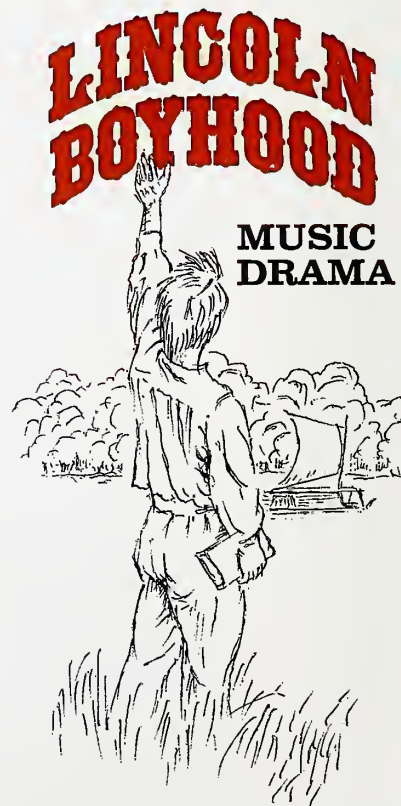
"Young Abe Lincoln growing up in Indiana" is an inspiring theme. In this modern day when young peoples' heroes have names like R2-D2, 3CPO or Superman, how nice to show them a role model based on real flesh and blood!

Young Abraham Lincoln is someone young people can identify with as they see him play, run and wrestle (he was a gifted athlete), chop trees, study, form friendships, growing from a boy to a man. I also think this show has the ingredients to become very successful at the box office.

I predict a hit! A show for all ages."

—BILLY EDD WHEELER

LAYOUT: Rev. Eric Lies, OSB  
PRINTING: Courtesy of Abbey Press  
Saint Meinrad, Indiana



Lincoln State Park  
Lincoln City, Indiana

Rep.  
Russ Stilwell  
Dist. 74, Boonville

- [My Homepage](#)
- [Contact Me](#)
- [My Committees](#)
- [My Legislation](#)
- [My Biographical Info](#)
- [Publications](#)
- [This Week at the House](#)
- [RSS Newsfeed](#)
- [Podcasts](#)
- [Caucus Staff](#)
- [About the Legislature](#)
- [Internships and Paging](#)
- [State Agency List](#)
- [Caucus Homepage](#)



**State Rep.**  
**Russ Stilwell**  
**News from the Statehouse**

**CONTACT:** John Schorg, Media Relations Director  
Media Office  
Democratic Caucus

**EMAIL:** [jschorg@iga.state.in.us](mailto:jschorg@iga.state.in.us)  
(317) 232-9621 or  
1-800-382-9842 (toll-free in Indiana)

For immediate release:  
April 29, 2007

### **Stilwell notes that new state budget contains Young Abe Lincoln Amphitheater funding**

INDIANAPOLIS — Two years after Republican lawmakers cut state support for operation of the Young Abe Lincoln Amphitheater, State Rep. Russ Stilwell (D-Boonville) has succeeded in restoring funding for the Lincoln State Park attraction.

Stilwell said the new biennial state budget approved today by the Indiana General Assembly contains more than \$1.6 million in state funding for the amphitheater and the production of Young Abe Lincoln that takes place at the facility in Spencer County. In addition, Stilwell secured \$1.475 million for the upcoming celebration of the 200th anniversary of the birth of our 16th president.

"Almost two years ago to this day, I was fearful that we were laying waste to a major part of our state's history: Indiana's links to one of our greatest presidents," Stilwell said. "Most people don't know that President Lincoln spent most of his childhood right here in Indiana. Through the various events that take place at the Lincoln State Park, particularly the theatrical production of Young Abe Lincoln, we have made history come alive for people of all ages.

"Unfortunately, the budget passed by the Republicans who controlled the Indiana General Assembly in 2005 cut the funding for the Lincoln Amphitheater," he continued. "Only a single dollar was appropriated for the theater for second year of the biennium, which runs from July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007."

The funding cuts came at the same time that the Legislature approved a measure that created the Indiana Abraham Lincoln bicentennial commission, which is responsible for planning events surrounding the 200th anniversary of Lincoln's birth on February 12, 2009.

"At the time, it made no sense to me to authorize a group to plan a celebration, then put at risk the future of a facility that would seem to be perfect as a focal point for that celebration," Stilwell said. "Over the past two years, I have talked to area residents, classes of students and even visitors to our area, and they all asked me to see what could be done to help protect the future of the amphitheater."

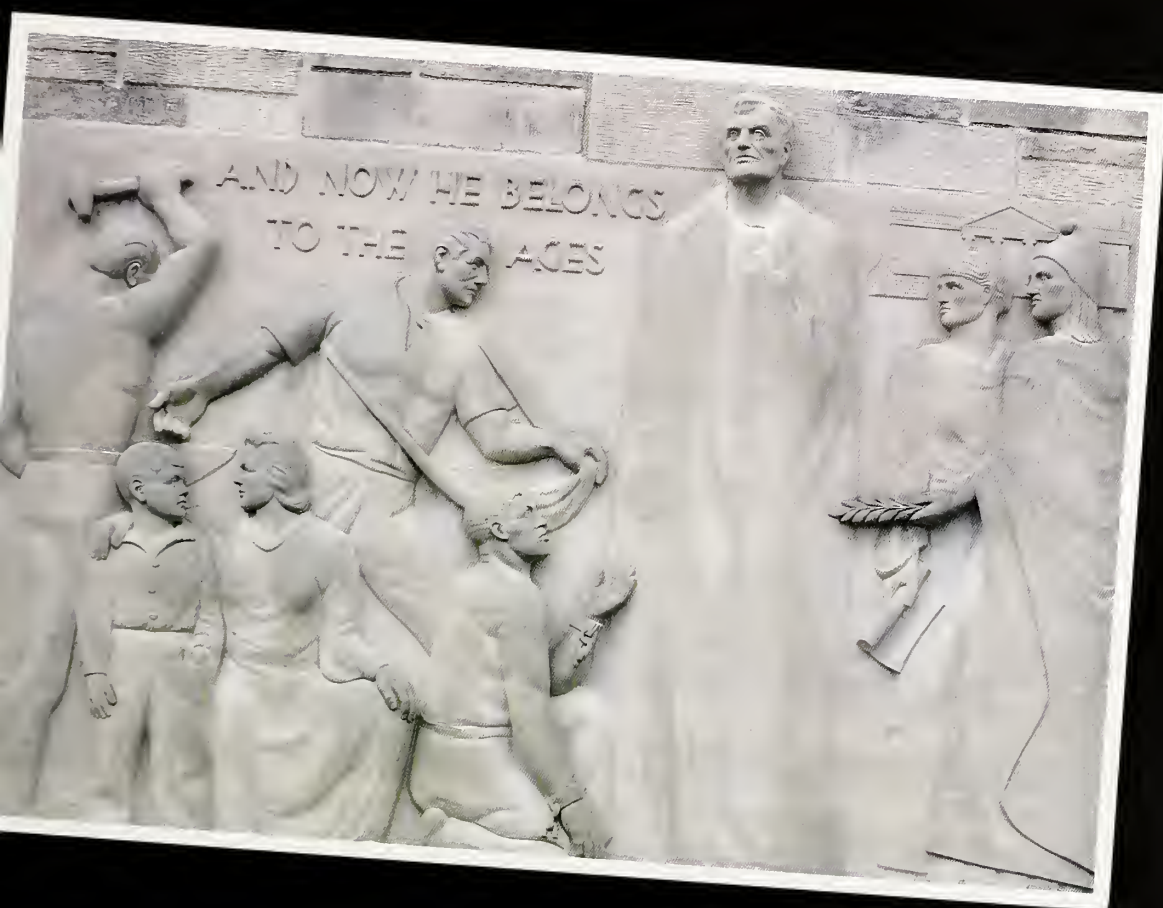
By working with key legislators who negotiated the final state budget plan,

Stilwell, the House majority leader, was able to secure \$825,000 for the Young Abe Lincoln production and \$810,000 for the Lincoln Amphitheater, as well as the funding for the bicentennial commission.

"We must continue to honor the memory of Abraham Lincoln, who helped lead our country during some of its darkest times," Stilwell said. "Through the Indiana General Assembly's actions this year, we will be able to continue to pay the kind of tribute this great American deserves."

- 30 -





LINCOLN BOYHOOD NATIONAL MEMORIAL  
"AND NOW HE BELONGS TO THE AGES"

By tradition, Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton spoke these words on the death of Abraham Lincoln. They are a reminder of the heritage left by Abraham Lincoln to the men and women of all time to come. This panel, sculpted by E. H. Daniels, symbolizes that enduring legacy. Located at Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial, Lincoln City, Indiana.

LBH-CD8

NPS photo

© Eastern National



Printed by Consolidated/Drake Press

---

---

---

---

DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE • SPACE RESERVED FOR U.S. POST OFFICE USE ONLY



9 159920 361201

ISBN 0-915992-33-3



LINCOLN BOYHOOD NATIONAL MEMORIAL  
LINCOLN CITY, INDIANA  
CABIN SITE MEMORIAL

Cast in bronze, the hearth and sill logs of a pioneer cabin mark the traditional site of a log home built by Thomas Lincoln and his son, Abraham. Here the Lincolns cleared, fenced, and worked 20 acres of good crop land. Here Abraham Lincoln grew up.

LBH-CD1  
© Eastern National

Photo by Jeff Gnass

Printed by Consolidated/Drake Press



---

---

---

---

DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE • SPACE RESERVED FOR U.S. POST OFFICE USE ONLY







LINCOLN BOYHOOD NATIONAL MEMORIAL  
LINCOLN CITY, INDIANA

LINCOLN'S INDIANA FIRESIDE

This full-scale museum model of a typical frontier hearth,  
was built with stones excavated from the site of the Lincoln  
family's Indiana home, where Abraham Lincoln worked,  
played, studied, and grew to manhood.

LB-CDIF

Photo by Schmitt

© Eastern National

Printed by Consolidated/Drake Press



---

---

---

---



DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE • SPACE RESERVED FOR U.S. POST OFFICE USE ONLY



SARAH LINCOLN  
WIFE OF  
AARON GRIGSBY  
FEB. 10, 1807  
JAN. 20, 1828

AARON  
GRIGSBY  
BORN  
1801  
DIED  
1831

LINCOLN BOYHOOD NATIONAL MEMORIAL  
LINCOLN CITY, INDIANA

THE GRAVE OF SARAH LINCOLN GRIGSBY

The remains of President Lincoln's sister and her infant child rest in the Little Pigeon Baptist Church Cemetery located in Lincoln State Park. After only 18 months of marriage, Sarah was to die giving birth to her first child on January 20, 1828, at the age of 21. Her husband, Aaron is buried beside her.

LBH-CD9

NPS photo

© Eastern National



Printed by Consolidated/Drake Press

---

---

---

---



DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE • SPACE RESERVED FOR U.S. POST OFFICE USE ONLY





LINCOLN BOYHOOD NATIONAL MEMORIAL  
LINCOLN CITY, INDIANA

THE GRAVE OF NANCY HANKS LINCOLN

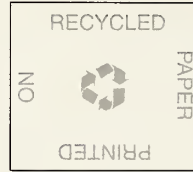
The remains of President Lincoln's mother rest in this peaceful pioneer cemetery. Nancy Hanks Lincoln died in 1818, when Abraham was nine years old. In later years, Lincoln said, "All that I am or ever hope to be, I owe to my loving angel mother. God Bless her."

NPS photo

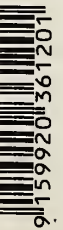
LB-CDNG

© Eastern National

Printed by Consolidated/Drake Press



DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE • SPACE RESERVED FOR U.S. POST OFFICE USE ONLY



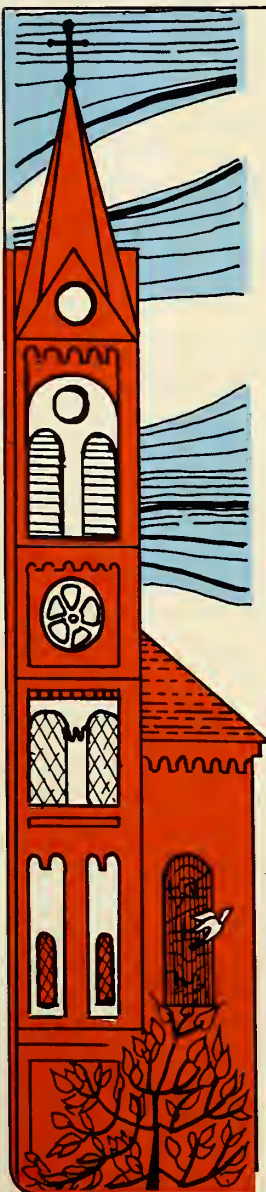
# Lincoln Hills Arts & Crafts Assn.

ENCOURAGING: Art, Literature, Music, Drama and all practical crafts—the first steps  
toward a nations enduring Culture.

*The  
Creators  
Cabin*



*Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial, Lincoln City, Indiana*



# The Lincoln Hills

When four counties combine their efforts in order to develop the environmental beauty, preserve the historical heritage, and encourage the talents of artists and craftsmen—in every phase of creativity—success is inevitable. Seven years of progress attest to this achievement by The Lincoln Hills Arts and Crafts Association.



## Spencer County

Abraham Lincoln in 1816, the year Indiana became a state, came to Spencer County as a seven-year-old boy and spent 16 formative years there. At Lincoln City (Ind. 162) are the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial and Lincoln State Park. A headstone at the Memorial marks the grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, who died of the "milk sick" when Abe was nine. Nearby in the cemetery of Pigeon Creek Baptist Church is the grave of his sister, Sarah Lincoln Grigsby. The rebuilt church is set on the foundation of the original, which Lincoln's father helped build and made the rough benches that served as pews. At Gentryville (U.S. 231) Abe worked as a clerk in James Gentry's store.

Santa Claus (Ind. 245) is the only postoffice in the United States with this name. It handles more than four million pieces of mail annually. The postoffice is adjacent to Santa Claus Land, one of the largest theme parks in the nation. Its initial impact is on children, with Santa Claus in residence from Easter through Labor Day. But it also has many historical attractions: the O.V. Brown collection of Lincoln material, which is to be housed in its own museum; the Hall of Famous Americans, consisting of lifesize wax figures by California artist Lewis Sorensen; the House of Dolls, a room full of dolls ranging from microscopic to lifesize—foreign, antique and regional, and the Presidential series (small wax figures of the Presidents and First Ladies from the Washingtons to the Kennedys). There is also a transportation museum of antique cars and a "surrey with the fringe on top."

The members of Spencer County are demonstrators at the

## Chicago World Flower & Garden Show

March 20-28

McCORMICK PLACE

Presenting—  
"SPRINGTIME AT THE CABIN DOOR"

Our cabin is adjacent to

## Santa Claus Post Office

- Finest golf course in Mid-America
- Exclusive country club for dining
- Complete shopping complex
- Tours on request



U.S. Post Office  
Santa Claus, Indiana

Cover: Woodcut—Fr. Donald Walpole. O.S.B., Oil painting "The Cabin"—Nelda May  
Cabin: Courtesy Bank of Lincolnwood, Illinois

Elmer Pruess—Chalk-talk artist, Landscape Architect. Harry Girvin—Technical Engineer.



**Perry County** Tell City (Ind. 66 & 37) was built by the Swiss in 1857 and named in honor of William Tell, Swiss national hero. The craftsmanship of the native Swiss settlers has made furniture making the town's leading industry. There is a Schweizer Fest each August to honor the townspeople's forebears. Cannelton, adjoining Tell City, and so named because of its deposits of cannel coal, provided fuel for the earliest steamboats on western waters. Many over-a-century-old churches, factories and other buildings, constructed of rough-hewn native sandstone, delight visitors.

**Crawford County** Two of the finest caves of the Midwest—Wyandotte (Ind. 62) and Marengo (Ind. 64 & 66) are in this ruggedly beautiful county. Wyandotte, site of Indiana's newest State Recreation Area and second largest cave in the nation, is named for the Wyandotte Indians who used its miles of passages for shelter.

**Harrison County** A simple, two-room building of native limestone slabs is the central attraction of Corydon (U.S. 460 & Ind. 135). The site was chosen and named by William Henry Harrison. Built in 1811-1812 for the county's courthouse, this primitive building with its hand-made but lovely railings and woodwork served as Indiana's capitol from the beginning of its statehood 1816 until 1825.



We welcome your inquiries, please write for

### GENERAL TOURIST INFORMATION

Lincoln Hills Arts and Crafts Assn.

Old Curiosity Shop

Santa Claus Land—in Santa's Country

Lincoln State Park

Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial  
Lincoln City Ind.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Rome—Old Courthouse and School, built in 1818, served as courthouse until 1859.

German Ridge Recreation Area.

Cannelton—the old cotton mill, LaFayette Springs, down by the river, the new dam, and the old sandstone church high above the town.

Tell City—A Swiss settled woodcraft town, the cleanest widest streets in the USA, culture, music, Schweitzer Fest August, fine motel.

Troy—Dogwood Tour each April, Lincoln Ferry Park, shelter house and picnic area.

Out of Troy east of Route 545—Huffman Mills Covered Bridge which connects Perry and Spencer Counties.

Chrisney—New Convention size community center, lake, golf course.

Grandview—Exactly that, at the turn of the river and the road, old river commerce town.

Rockport—Flatboat Festival—landing where Abe left for New Orleans, reconstructed Pioneer Village, Flea Markets, beautiful courthouse.

Swimming, boating, fishing and camping facilities at 4 Multi-purpose Watershed Lakes west of Highway 37 in central and northern Perry County.

And back through the  
LINCOLN HILLS

Gentryville—A place where the peddler stopped, where Abe got his books and

visited in the country store.

Lincoln City—Lincoln State Park, group camp, lake, camp sites.

LINCOLN NATIONAL BOYHOOD MEMORIAL—The living farm, stock, garden, orchard, the smokehouse and woodshop and the cabin, reconstructed, where the pioneer family lived.

Dale—Two motels, antiques, promoters of the Heritage Trail.

Santa Claus—"The spirit of giving"—for that's what Santa Claus is all about! Rides, enchantment, lakes, finest wax museum, clean camp sites, Christmas Lake Village, Championship Golf course, Country Club dining.

The Creators Cabin, Lincoln Hills Arts & Crafts, Route 245, two exhibits each year—last weekend in April, last weekend before Thanksgiving at Lamar, Indiana, Clay Huff School.

St. Meinrad—The Little Alps of Indiana.

St. Meinrad Archabbey—A tranquil and beautiful place. A photographer's or artist's paradise, from the road, or on "The Hill." Tours conducted on request after you arrive. No charge.

All this within nice easy riding distance from motel or campsite.

It would take more than one day to see it all so we have guests for another night in Spencer or Perry County! And Welcome!

Resource Conservation and Development Project located in Lincoln Hills.

60000 of these were handed out at  
The Chicago World Flower and Garden Show.  
We are still getting inquiries from this  
promotional project.

Place  
Stamp  
Here

## THE CREATORS CABIN

Lincoln Hills Arts and Crafts—Spencer County

Santa Claus, Indiana 47579



**LINCOLN  
STATE PARK**

Rome—Old Courthouse and School, built in 1818, served as courthouse until 1859.

German Ridge Recreation Area.

Cannelton—the old cotton mill, LaFayette Springs, down by the river, the new dam, and the old sandstone church high above the town.

Tell City—A Swiss settled woodcraft town, the cleanest widest streets in the USA, culture, music, Schweitzer Fest August, fine motel.

Troy—Dogwood Tour each April, Lincoln Ferry Park, shelter house and picnic area.

Out of Troy east of Route 545—Huffman Mills Covered Bridge which connects Perry and Spencer Counties.

Chrisney—New Convention size community center, lake, golf course.

Grandview—Exactly that, at the turn of the river and the road, old river commerce town.

Rockport—Flatboat Festival—landing where Abe left for New Orleans, reconstructed Pioneer Village, Flea Markets, beautiful courthouse.

Swimming, boating, fishing and camping facilities at 4 Multi-purpose Watershed Lakes west of Highway 37 in central and northern Perry County.

And back through the  
LINCOLN HILLS

Gentryville—A place where the peddler stopped, where Abe got his books and

visited in the country store.

Lincoln City—Lincoln State Park, group camp, lake, camp sites.

LINCOLN NATIONAL BOYHOOD MEMORIAL—The living farm, stock, garden, orchard, the smokehouse and woodshop and the cabin, reconstructed, where the pioneer family lived.

Dale—Two motels, antiques, promoters of the Heritage Trail.

Santa Claus—"The spirit of giving"—for that's what Santa Claus is all about! Rides, enchantment, lakes, finest wax museum, clean camp sites, Christmas Lake Village, Championship Golf course, Country Club dining.

The Creators Cabin, Lincoln Hills Arts & Crafts, Route 245, two exhibits each year—last weekend in April, last weekend before Thanksgiving at Lamar, Indiana, Clay Huff School.

St. Meinrad—The Little Alps of Indiana. St. Meinrad Archabbey—A tranquil and beautiful place. A photographer's or artist's paradise, from the road, or on "The Hill." Tours conducted on request after you arrive. No charge.

All this within nice easy riding distance from motel or campsite.

It would take more than one day to see it all so we have guests for another night in Spencer or Perry County! And Welcome!

Resource Conservation and Development Project located in Lincoln Hills.

60000 of these were handed out at  
The Chicago World Flower and Garden Show.  
We are still getting inquiries from this  
promotional project.

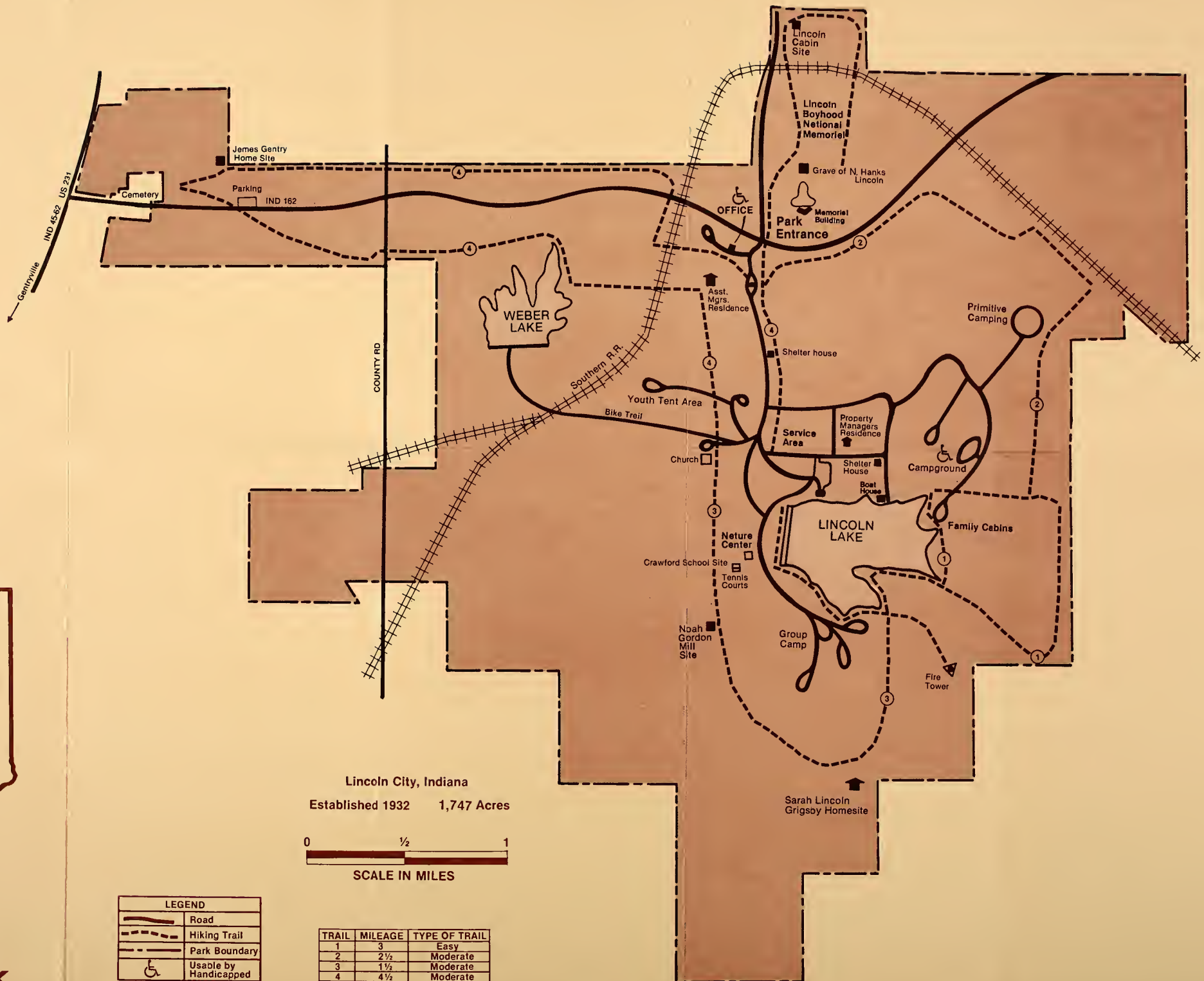
Place  
Stamp  
Here

## THE CREATORS CABIN

Lincoln Hills Arts and Crafts—Spencer County

Santa Claus, Indiana 47579





LOCATION MAP



# LINCOLN STATE PARK

Lincoln City, Indiana  
Established 1932 1,747 Acres

0 1/2 1  
SCALE IN MILES

LEGEND	
	Road
	Hiking Trail
	Park Boundary
	Usable by Handicapped

TRAIL	MILEAGE	TYPE OF TRAIL
1	3	Easy
2	2 1/2	Moderate
3	1 1/2	Moderate
4	4 1/2	Moderate



# **LINCOLN STATE PARK**

Box 216  
Lincoln City, Indiana 47552  
812-937-4710

## **TRAIL MAP**

Established 1932 1,747 Acres  
On Ind. 162 and Ind. 345  
near Lincoln City

Lincoln State Park, which adjoins Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial, offers visitors a chance to enjoy nature and out-of-door recreation against the historical background of the Lincoln Memorial.

An artificial lake, stocked with game fish, covers approximately 85 acres. The lake at Lincoln State Park is well known throughout southern Indiana for its excellent fishing. Boats and docking facilities are available adjacent to the swimming beach. Popular hiking trails lead around the lake and to the nearby fire tower. Swimming facilities, boating, picnicking, and a Nature Center are among the recreational features enjoyed at Lincoln State Park. Within the park is the Little Pigeon Primitive Baptist Church built on the site of the early building in which the Lincoln family worshipped. In the church yard may be found the graves of Sarah Lincoln Grigsby, Lincoln's only sister, and other pioneer settlers.

A modern group camp, which has a capacity of 155 campers and leaders, is available March through November. A modern bathhouse and concession building, including public rest rooms, is located at the bathing beach.

## **DESCRIPTION OF TRAILS**

1. Starts at boat dock and leads around south shore of lake, by fire tower and back to boat dock.

2. Begins just East of gatehouse and proceeds in an Easterly direction. The trail goes by an old strip mine and old homesite before connecting with Trail 1 just East of campground.
3. Leaves Trail 1 at picnic shelter just West of beach. Goes by old church and cemetery. Connects with Trail 1 on South shore of lake.
4. Leaves Trail 3 just West of old church. Goes West to Gentry Homesite and back to park by way of gatehouse.

## **ACTIVITIES and FACILITIES AT LINCOLN STATE PARK**

**BOATS**-Rental boats by hour or day. Privately owned boats may be launched. Only electric trolling motors, powered by no more than one 12-volt battery, are allowed.

**CAMPING**-Campground equipped with flush toilets, hot water, and showers. Occupancy limited to two (2) weeks. Sites will accommodate trailers. Class "A" and Primitive sites are available.

**FAMILY HOUSEKEEPING CABINS**-Moderate fee; available April through November. Write to the Property Manager. Occupancy limited to one week.

**FISHING**-Bass, bluegill, etc. State License required.

**GROUP CAMP**-Short-term camping only. Camp has 155-person capacity. Open March through November. Write to the Property Manager.

**HIKING**-Several miles of easy-to-moderate trails.

**PICNIC AREAS**-Tables, grills, toilet facilities, playground equipment and playfield.

**SWIMMING**-Swimming permitted only when lifeguard on duty. Free beach. Bathhouse and beach open Saturday before Memorial Day through Labor Day.

## **SPECIAL NOTE**

**Receipts from admission and service charges are used to help defray the operation and maintenance costs of the park. List of fees available in the park office.**

## **THIS IS YOUR PARK**

All visitors are expected to observe the following rules which are designed to fulfill the purpose for which state parks were established, namely to preserve a primitive landscape in its natural condition for the use and enjoyment of the people.

### **SUMMARY OF RULES AND REGULATIONS**

1. Do not injure or damage any structure, rock, tree, flower, bird or wild animal within the Park (See No. 2). Do NOT gather limbs, brush or trees (either live or dead) for firewood! It MUST be allowed to remain to rebuild the natural humus.
2. Firearms are prohibited at all times.
3. Dogs and cats must be kept on leash while in the Park.
4. There shall be no vending or advertising without permission of the Department.
5. Camping is permitted only in the campground. Youth groups must be under adult supervision.
6. Fires shall be built only in places provided. Visitors must put waste in receptacles provided for that purpose.
7. Motorists will observe speed limits as posted, and park in designated areas.
8. Swimming is limited to such places and times as designated by the Department.

9. Drinking water should be taken only from pumps, hydrants or fountains provided for that purpose. This water supply is tested regularly for purity.
10. Report Lost or Found articles to the Property Manager.

## **CONSIDER THE RESULTS IF OTHER VISITORS USE THE PARK AS YOU DO**

### **HELP PREVENT FOREST FIRES**

Build fires only in designated places.

Be sure that cigars and cigarettes are extinguished before they are thrown away.

Break your match before you drop it.

Report any violation of fire regulations to park officials at once.

### **THE INTELLIGENT USE OF LEISURE TIME**

This trail map is given to you with the compliments of the State of Indiana through its Department of Natural Resources in the hope that it will direct your attention to the primary purpose for which the State Park system has been established.

These recreational areas are parts of "original America," preserving for posterity typical primitive landscapes of scenic grandeur and rugged beauty.

Along the quiet trails through these reservations, it is to be expected that the average citizen will find release from the tension of his overcrowded daily existence; that the contact with nature will refocus with a clearer lens his perspective on life's values and that he may here take counsel with himself to the end that his strength and confidence are renewed.





DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF STATE PARKS  
616 State Office Building  
Indianapolis Indiana 46204



## Lincoln City, Indiana



### MEMORIAL VISITOR CENTER

Historic building honoring Abraham Lincoln and his mother./Museum and two Memorial Halls./Half-hour film, "Here I Grew Up."/Books, postcards, slides for sale./Information, restrooms, telephone./**Open daily 8 to 5 (CST/CDT). Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's Day.**



### NANCY HANKS LINCOLN CEMETERY

Burial place of President's mother and other pioneers.



### LINCOLN LIVING HISTORICAL FARM

A complete, working pioneer farmstead./Log cabin, outbuildings, split-rail fences, animals, gardens, crop fields./Costumed "pioneers" present family living and farming activities daily, mid-April through October.

**LINCOLN BOYHOOD NATIONAL MEMORIAL  
IS ADMINISTERED BY THE  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**



National Memorial

## WHERE ABRAHAM LINCOLN GREW UP!

**L**incoln Boyhood National Memorial is a place to learn about Abraham Lincoln and his family, who lived here in a pioneer community from 1816 to 1830.

When Abraham Lincoln was seven-years old, his family moved here from Kentucky to settle on 160 acres of wilderness land. This is the place where Abraham Lincoln spent his boyhood, until he was 21.

Here, young Abraham helped his father Thomas clear the forest to make a pioneer farm. Here his mother Nancy died when he was only nine. Here the growing youth split rails, plowed and planted among the stumps, played, read, and attended school "by littles."

From here in 1830, Abraham Lincoln went with his family to Illinois, destined for greatness.

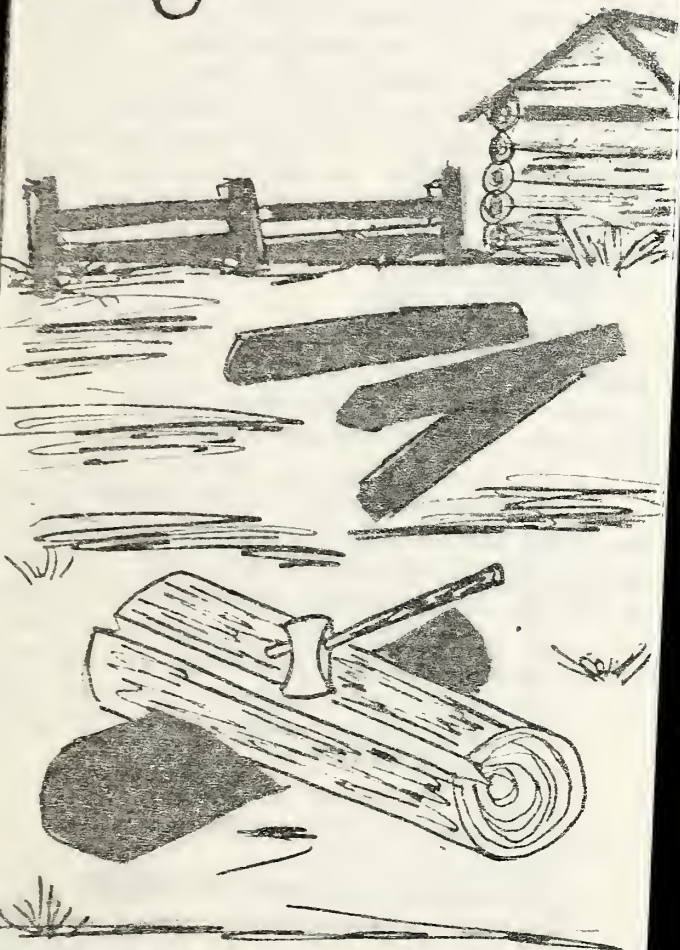
Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial is open daily year-round. The Memorial adjoins the 1747-acre Lincoln State Park, home of the Young Abe Lincoln Musical Outdoor Drama, performed nightly except Mondays, mid-June through August. Lincoln State Park (812-937-4710) also has facilities for camping, picnicking, hiking, swimming, boating, and fishing.



For further information write or call:  
**Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial**  
 Lincoln City, Indiana 47552  
 (812) 937-4541



ee  
A B C



1816 -  
- 1830

Lincoln City, Spencer County  
Indiana



The idea of an outdoor historical drama depicting the Lincoln years in Southern Indiana was given birth at the June 1977 meeting of the Lincoln Club of Southern Indiana, a member of the Indiana Federation of Clubs and the General Federation of Women's Clubs. A Drama Committee was formed at this meeting and our dream was underway.

As an outgrowth of this committee, the Lincoln Boyhood Drama Association, Inc. was formed in September 1977.

The members of the Board of Directors of this tax-exempt, non-profit corporation are working diligently toward:

- a feasibility study
- location for the amphitheater
- financial support
- artists to create the production



# ABE LINCOLN'S BOYHOOD - 1816-1830

In this drama in the Lincoln Hills we hope to convey the essence of humanity that was Abraham Lincoln. His unfailing sense of humor, his friendly warmth toward his fellow man, his need to learn, his honesty, his frailties, his love of work, his compassion all were woven into his character as he grew to be a man here in Spencer County, Indiana.



The serenity of his spirit is caught in the face carved on a mountain-top. Patient and welcoming, he silently greets those who enter the columned Memorial in our nation's capital city. Standing on a pedestal in Parliament Square in London proves him capable of being at home anywhere.

Here in these hills in a cabin home, a child of seven grew to be "the man of the ages."



Our purpose in this drama is to humbly accept and proudly acknowledge this . . .

and to - *Mary Power*

KEEP A HERO FOR THE CHILDREN

Outdoor summer theater  
has proven successful in  
many parts of our nation and  
we feel that the historical  
significance of our leading  
man, Abraham Lincoln, has  
definite appeal to all people,  
old and young alike.

Your support of this  
endeavor will help to bring  
this to fruition.



Contributions may be sent to:

LINCOLN BOYHOOD DRAMA ASSN., INC  
Mrs. Mary Rodgers, Treasurer  
Box 33  
Lincoln City, Ind. 47552

(tentative idea of how we would  
use the sketches.)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:  
(all serving gratis)

Mrs. Freda Schroder, Chairman  
Mr. Dean R. Brooner  
Mr. Ervin Caldemeyer  
Mrs. Mary Conen  
Mr. Earl Conner  
Mr. David Gorton  
Mayor Dale Helmerich  
Mr. Ralph Kennedy  
Mr. Forrest Lincoln  
Mrs. Iris Ludwig  
Mr. Orville Martin  
Mr. Clarence Price  
Mrs. Grace Riddle  
Mrs. Mary Rodgers

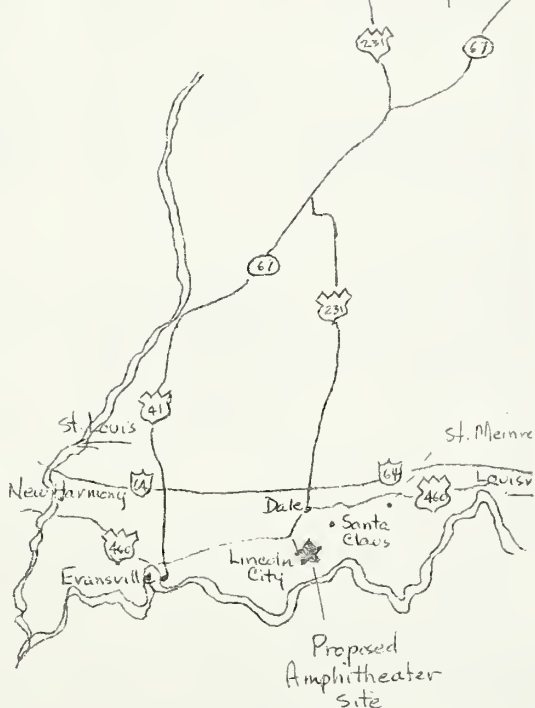
HONORARY DIRECTORS:

Dr. Wallace B. Graves,  
President, Univ. of  
Evansville

Fr. Gavin Barnes, OSB  
St. Meinrad Archabbey

Mr. William Koch  
President, Santa Claus Land

Rev. Russell Dazey  
New Hope Baptist Church,  
Newtonville



Neighboring attractions:

Lincoln Boyhood National  
Memorial and Lincoln State  
Park, Lincoln City  
Santa Claus Land, Santa Claus  
The Archabbey, St. Meinrad  
Angel Mounds State Memorial,  
Evansville  
George Rogers Clark National  
Memorial, Vincennes  
New Harmony State Memorial and  
Historic New Harmony



Outdoor summer theater  
has proven successful in  
many parts of our nation and  
we feel that the historical  
significance of our leading  
man, Abraham Lincoln, has  
definite appeal to all people,  
old and young alike.

Your support of this  
endeavor will help to bring  
this to fruition.



Contributions may be sent to:

LINCOLN BOYHOOD DRAMA ASSN., INC.  
Mrs. Mary Rodgers, Treasurer  
Box 33  
Lincoln City, Ind. 47552

(tentative idea of how we would  
use the sketches.)

DRAMA

ABE

LINCOLN'S

BOYHOOD

1816

1830

We invite you to help with the drama depicting Abe Lincoln's Boyhood.....

In 1809, Abraham Lincoln was born in Kentucky and lived there for the seven years of his childhood. In 1816, Tom and Nancy Hanks Lincoln crossed the Ohio River with their children, Sarah, nine, and little Abe. This was the year Indiana became a State. Here he grew up - blessed with a good Mother and a fine Stepmother, he found that learning and laughter balanced his mind. His compassionate spirit grew also - keeping him close to his fellow man and his God. The races he won - the hurdles he took - the pinning down of an opponent, either physically, at wrestling, or verbally in debate, made him a champion of olympic quality. He set his own goals and met each challenge with his best efforts from rail-

splitting to the Presidency. Each step on the trail, from the cabin to Capitol Hill made his character grow in ever greater dimension. At 21 he sent to Illinois, then to Washington. His dream of a united states, and of all men's freedom cost him his life. Historians say, "He belongs to the ages." Abraham Lincoln was neither all saint or all sinner, he was first a man - fine and faulty as we all are. One statement is true of him..... "He did the best he could!"

This presentation is of the age called - Boyhood in the life of a man called....."ABE".

Promoted by:

The Lincoln Drama Club  
Lincoln City, Indiana

F. Schroeder, Chairman



## WELCOME BY

The Board members of the newly formed  
association for the promotion of

THE LINCOLN DRAMA-IN SPENCER COUNTY

1816 to 1830

oooooooooooooooooooo

## THE BOARD

Mrs. Freda Schroeder, Chairman

Mrs. Grace Riddle

Mrs. Mary Rodgers

Mrs. Mary Conen

Mrs. Iris Ludwig

Clarence Price

Narl Conner

Ralph Kennedy

Dean R. Bruoner

Orville Martin

Forest Lincoln

Dale Helmerich

Ervin Caldemyer

## HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS

Father Gavin Barnes, OSB

Wallace B. Graves, Pres. U. of E.

Kale Holder, Judge, Federal Court

Russell Dazey, Pastor, New Hope

Baptist Church, Newtonville, IN.

David Girton, Writer, Director,

Musician.

oooooooooooooooooooo

Meeting in the Nancy Hanks Room

July 11

Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial

## THE FOURTEEN YEARS

- 1816--The bitter winter-in a 3-sided cabin.
- 1817--Cleared cropland, a cabin on "free soil" in a new state!
- 1818--Woodcrafters Tom and son Abe making a coffin for Nancy.
- 1819--The desolate cabin and children, no mother, a lonely father.
- 1820--A good stepmother, Sally Bush Johnston married Tom... Andrew Crawford taught school--- memorizing and manners!
- 1821--THE LITTLE PIGEON CHURCH
- 1822--BOOKS--the way to knowledge for Abraham all through his life.
- 1823--Abe as church sexton.
- 1824--Hard farm work and riverboating.
- 1825--The law of the land the the river rules.
- 1826--Adventure at nineteen--building a flat boat. The trip to New Orleans.
- 1827--Decisions - Dedication to insure insure freedom for all men.
- 1828--Reading everything he could find and recounting the trip to the pioneers who gathered in the Gentry Store.
- 1829--Threat of the milk sick! News of fertile soil in Illinois.
- 1830--One covered wagon brought them, three were well-loaded as they they moved toward their new home on the Sagamon river in Illinois. The child of seven was made into a man in Indiana.
- ABRAHAM LINCOLN - Kentucky's child Indiana's boy, Illinois' Statesman --President at Washington, D.C.
- MAN OF THE WORLD.

PROGRAM

Presented July 11, 1978 - 7 P.M.

In the Chapel at the  
Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial  
Lincoln City, Ind.

INTRODUCING THE DREAM OF A DRAMA  
Words and Music

TREES

Reading from a play directed and  
produced and written by the Drama  
Director at the St. Bede Theatre,  
St. Meinrad Arch Abbey, St. Meinrad,  
Indiana.

Playwrite: Father Gavin Barnes, OSB

Dramatic Reading --

By David Gorton, Director of Drama  
and Music, of the current summer  
theatre production at the new  
Showhouse in Santa Claus Land.

"SING OUR SONGS AMERICA"

Recognized and acclaimed as 'TOPS'  
by the young thespians of Spencer  
County.

"Fiddler on the Roof" "Oklahoma"  
and "Once Upon a Mattress"

All professional quality performances.

CONCERT

Organ Music--Clarence "Dixie" Davis  
Who played his way through college -  
Purdue University



**LINCOLN BOYHOOD**  
MEMORIAL was created by the State of Indiana as a memorial to Abraham Lincoln and his mother. On February 19, 1962 President John F. Kennedy signed into law the act accepting the Memorial as a unit of the National Park System.

The Lincoln family came to this place in December of 1816 when Abraham was seven years old and during the next thirteen years carved out of the forest a typical frontier farm. The National Park Service is developing a similar Living Historical Farm of the 1824 - 25 period on a portion of the original Thomas Lincoln tract. You are invited to walk back into history. Your visit begins at the Exhibit Shelter Parking Area.



## LINCOLN LIVING HISTORICAL FARM





## LINCOLN LIVING HISTORICAL FARM

### LINCOLN BOYHOOD

MEMORIAL was created by the State of Indiana as a memorial to Abraham Lincoln and his mother. On February 19, 1962 President John F. Kennedy signed into law the act accepting the Memorial as a unit of the National Park System.

The Lincoln family came to this place in December of 1816 when Abraham was seven years old and during the next thirteen years carved out of the forest a typical frontier farm. The National Park Service is developing a similar Living Historical Farm of the 1824 - 25 period on a portion of the original Thomas Lincoln tract. You are invited to walk back into history. Your visit begins at the Exhibit Shelter Parking Area.



## THE INDIANA WILDERNESS

This land was once a forest of giant oaks, maples and hickories which one settler described as "woods, woods, woods, as far as the world extends . . . it is seldom that a view of two hundred yards in extent can be caught in Indiana . . . it is a vast forest penetrated in places by backwoods settlers who are half hunters, half farmers."

In 1819 another visitor measured the size of some of the trees and found oaks of 24 feet in circumference and larger. But it was not the great size of the trees which characterized the Indiana wilderness so much as the almost impenetrable thickness of the undergrowth. Great masses of shrub and brush were entangled with the trees by huge grapevines which ascended to the topmost branches and from there spread in all directions. Months and even years of backbreaking labor with brush hooks, brier sythes, mattocks and other "grubbing" tools had to be spent before the land could be farmed.

These forests abounded in wild animals and birds. Wild game such as deer, antelope, hare, opossum, wild turkey, quail, grouse, duck and many others provided a plentiful supply of fresh meat while bears, wolves, wildcats and an occasional panther were a serious threat to the settler's livestock. Lincoln composed a poem many years after he left Indiana, one stanza of which read:

When first my father settled here  
'Twas then the frontier line.  
The panther's scream filled the night with fear,  
And bears preyed on the swine.

In addition to the forest and wild animals, the settlers were forced to cope with swarms of mosquitoes and black flies which arose every summer from the swamps. Wood ticks, chiggers and lice as well as rattlesnakes and copperheads inhabited the underbrush. All in all, it is no wonder Abraham Lincoln recalled he "had never passed through a harder experience" than that of his journey from Kentucky to the homesite and the early months of settlement.

## CLEARING THE LAND

According to an early settler the first clearing was done in a "hurry-up-and-get-in-a-crop" style. Two or three acres, all that could be cleared in a year even with a neighbor's help, were known as "eighteen inches and under" clearings. All trees under eighteen inches in diameter were felled; those over that size remained standing. The small trees were then cut into logs, piled with the brush and roots around the base of the larger trees, and ignited. The burning of these piles killed the standing trees, leaving a number of blackened trunks around which the farmer was obliged to plow.

After the first year or two, clearing was done more systematically. Instead of burning, the settlers "deadened" the trees during the summer months by cutting a ring around the trunk with an axe — a process known as "girdlin". This prevented the sap from reaching the leaves, killing some trees fairly rapidly and others over a longer period of time. The deadened trees could then be burned during the following winter and the stumps pulled in the spring.

## THE LINCOLN HOMESITE

In the fall of 1816 Thomas Lincoln made a preliminary trip to Indiana to select a homesite. He determined that "a quarter section of land in Hurricane Township, Perry County," (later Spencer County) would answer his needs. When he had made his choice, he followed the practice of marking his tract by piling up brush at the four corners and erecting a "half-faced camp" near the place where the cabin was to be built.

The half-faced camp, used for temporary shelter by hunters and settlers alike, consisted of a pole laid from branch to branch of two convenient trees. A few feet opposite these trees two stout saplings, forked at the top and sharpened at the bottom, were thrust into the ground. Another pole, parallel with the first, was laid in the crotches and the frame completed by two more poles fixed upon the ends of those already in place. Three sides and the roof were enclosed by poles covered with brush and leaves. The fourth side of the structure, which was some fourteen feet wide, remained open. Before this open side a fire was kept burning to provide heat, a place to cook, and protection from wild animals.



THE FIRST LINCOLN CABIN

Thomas Lincoln was experienced in cabin building, having helped erect many in Kentucky, including two or three of his own. The harvest season was past by the time the Lincoln family reached their homesite, and thus with the assistance of a few neighboring settlers, construction must have progressed fairly rapidly. One family who reached central Indiana about the same year as the Lincolns reported: "Arrived on Tuesday, cut logs for the cabin on Wednesday, raised the barn on Thursday, clapboards from an old sugar camp put on Friday and Saturday made crude furniture to go to housekeeping." It is quite probable that the Lincolns moved from the half-faced camp into a cabin before Abe's eighth birthday.

A typical southwestern Indiana log cabin similar to that built by Thomas Lincoln would measure some 18 x 20 feet in floor area and eight feet from floor to rafters. The unhewn logs with bark were about twelve inches in diameter so eight such logs were required for each wall, plus a few more to fill in the gables. Before starting to build the walls four corner stones were laid and two side logs hewn flat on one side were positioned on them. Properly notched logs were then put in place, one on top of the next. Smaller poles were cut for the roof. Clapboards split from straight-grained logs were then used as covering and held in place by weighted poles extending the width of the roof. Openings for a door, one or two windows and a chimney were then cut. Finally a stick chimney was erected and the fireplace was covered with "stiff mud and daubed over the chinking on both the inside and outside of the cabin."

According to Dennis Hanks, who arrived in the fall of 1817, Thomas Lincoln's cabin was very crude. It contained one room with a loft above reached by pegs driven in the walls. The floor of the loft where the children slept was of clapboard but there was only dirt on the cabin floor and no windows or door — not even the traditional deer-skin hung before the entrance.

On October 5th, 1818 Nancy Hanks died of the dread "milk sickness" that swept through Indiana that year. A year later Thomas Lincoln, unable to stand the loneliness and haphazard existence, returned to Kentucky where he married Sara Bush Johnston on December 2nd, 1819. Upon her arrival at the Lincoln homesite she put Thomas Lincoln and Dennis Hanks to work renovating the cabin. Rough-hewn planks called "puncheons" were cut and laid for flooring, the roof was finished and a door hung. The children were washed, combed and "dressed up" so as to look "more human." The cabin was cleansed, decent bedding put on the pole and clapboard beds, the fireplace overhauled, and ample cooking utensils installed. Thomas put together a "proper table, better stool," and a chair or two. Finally, the inside of the cabin was whitewashed.

The bronze fireplace and sill logs, cast in Munich, Germany in 1936 by the International Art Foundries, memorialize the thirteen formative years Abraham Lincoln spent here. During this time Lincoln the boy grew to be Lincoln the man, and his experiences affected him during all the later years.

CROPS GROWN BY LINCOLN

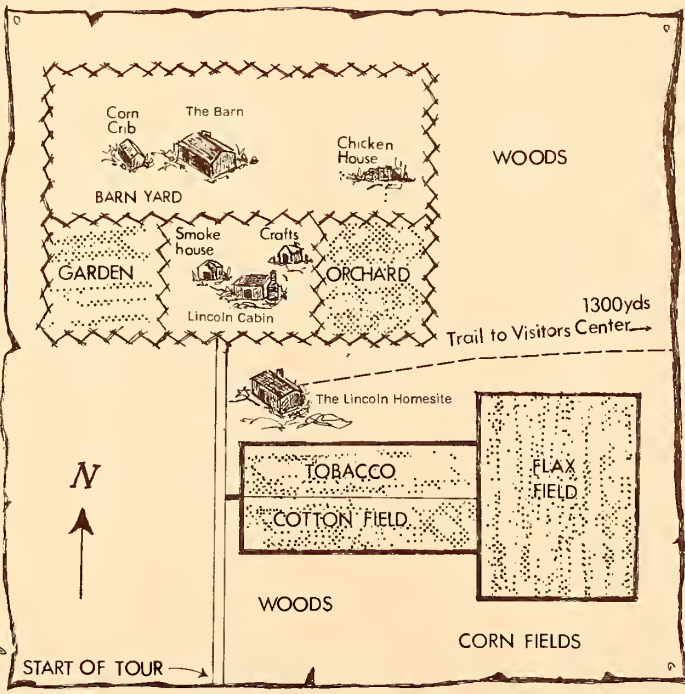
CORN was probably the first crop planted by Lincoln. After the field had been cleared it was plowed diagonally with furrows about two feet apart, and then plowed again with furrows at right angles to the first. Corn was then planted at the crossings of the furrows, and was often alternated with pumpkins, melons or gourds on every other hill. All the cultivating was done with a hoe, and the harvesting by hand. After the ears were picked, the stalks were cut, shocked and stored for use as winter feed for the animals. Corn that was not needed for home consumption was sold by the bushel or distilled into corn whiskey which was easier to transport and



Corn

Pumpkins and Gourds

Cotton



MAP OF THOMAS LINCOLN'S FARM  
1827-1830

brought a better price in the market. Dennis Hanks recalled that "we raised corn mostly, and some wheat — enough for a cake Sunday morning." By 1824 the Lincoln farm grew ten acres of corn and five of wheat, according to Hanks.

Corn, and other crops, were always in jeopardy. They ran the risk of late spring or early fall frost; they were subject to the hunger of cutworms; and there might be too little or too much rain. Woodpeckers swarming in the deadened trees pulled up sprouting plants; wild turkey fed on the newly planted seeds or ripened ears and squirrels made constant raids upon the fields along with raccoons and other animals.

PUMPKINS AND GOURDS, planted in the corn hills, were among the most versatile crops grown. The hard rind gourds served the settlers as bottles, pans, ladles and funnels. Some gourds, large enough to hold a quantity of grain or liquid made safe storage receptacles for seeds, sugar, syrup and many other items. There was an old saying in Spencer County that happy was the man with "whisky in the demijohn and sugar in the gourd."

Pumpkins grew to an immense size, weighing from forty to sixty pounds. They made tasty pies, or could be eaten stewed and buttered, fried, or as pumpkin molasses. Strips of shell were made into tight rolls called "pumpkin leather" and



Tobacco

Vegetables

Apple Trees

chewed by the children. The cattle, hogs and poultry were also fed on pumpkin or pumpkin seeds.

COTTON AND FLAX were grown on almost every farm to provide fibers which could be first spun into thread and then woven into cloth and linen.

Traditionally flax was planted on Good Friday. In late summer, when it was ready for harvesting, the flax was pulled and either spread on the ground or put in a pond or lake and left for several weeks. This process rotted the woody parts of the plant, which were then broken up on a flax break. The

stalks were "scutched" or "swingled" to knock bits of stalk out of the fiber. These fibers were then "hatched" by pulling them through several successively finer combs. After this process they were ready to be spun into thread and finally woven on the loom into linen cloth. Flax was also combined with wool to form "linsey woolsey," probably the most common cloth of the frontier.

TOBACCO was also grown in small patches for use in the home. The frontier variety was much darker than that of today, and was used for pipe smoking or chewing. When ripe the crop was harvested and hung on sticks or racks in the field to dry. It was then moved to the barn and later made into twists.

A GARDEN supplied fresh peas, beans, cabbage, potatoes, turnips and various other vegetables. The settlers also planted herbs which they used for flavoring and as a preservative. Peas and beans as well as the root crops such as potatoes and turnips could be eaten fresh or stored for winter consumption.

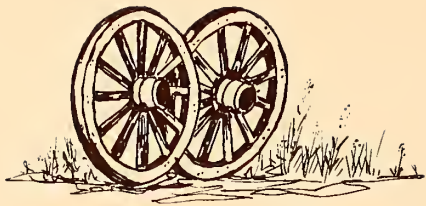
AN ORCHARD, usually of apple trees, was one of the first plantings made by the settler after he had cleared his land. Apple trees would grow in almost any soil, and the fruit could be eaten fresh, stored, made into apple butter or into cider.

OTHER FARM BUILDINGS

THE BARN housed most of the domestic animals and provided storage space for feed, wagons, harness and the many farm tools. Among these farm implements the shovel-plow, the hoe and the axe were most frequently used. Wooden pitchforks, rakes and shovels along with harrows and flails comprised most of the balance of the farming tools.

THE BARNYARD was the focal point for much of the farm activity. Here the cows were milked each morning and then turned out to pasture. Horses and oxen were harnessed for work; the sheep penned and sheared. Hogs, chickens and geese were also found in the barnyard or running loose around the farm area. Fences were used to keep animals out of cultivated fields rather than confine them to a particular pen.

THE SMOKE HOUSE was essential to the pioneer and his family. After meat was butchered, the hams, shoulders and sides were put in casks of brine to cure, then hung in the smokehouse to smoke for about two days. Pork, which was the most important meat in the frontier diet, and a lesser extent beef and wild game, were cured in this fashion.



## PIONEER CRAFTS

On the frontier almost everyone practiced at least two, if not many more, professions. Thomas Lincoln was first a farmer and second a carpenter and house-joiner. Beyond these he was also a cooper who made barrels or casks and a wheelwright who made wagon wheels and sometimes wagons. He was known for his fine craftsmanship and cabinet work done with tools which, though crude by today's standards, were said to be "the wonder of the neighborhood." Like all good neighbors in this rugged land, he helped others construct their houses and build the Little Pigeon Church.

Located in the backyard in close proximity to the cabin were a number of things important to the frontier family. A grindstone was used to sharpen tools; an ash hopper placed in a corner was used to make lye by pouring water over wood

ashes and collecting the substance that dripped from the bottom. This lye was then mixed with fat to make soap through a formula which called for six bushels of ashes plus fifty pounds of grease to equal one tub of soap. A large kettle was always available for rendering lard, making soap and doing the wash.

We hope you have enjoyed your visit to the Lincoln Living Historical Farm. If you have not yet done so, the National Park Service invites you to visit the other areas of the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial, including the Exhibit Shelter, the Grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln and the Visitor Center.

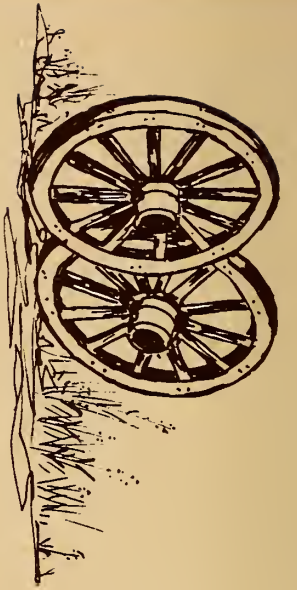
*Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial  
Lincoln City, Indiana*

*Art by Koren Pierce  
Printed by Chatham Press, Inc.  
Old Greenwich, Connecticut, U.S.A.*

**U. S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**







## PIONEER CRAFTS

On the frontier almost everyone practiced at least two, if not many more, professions. Thomas Lincoln was first a farmer and second a carpenter and house-joiner. Beyond these he was also a cooper who made barrels or casks and a wheelwright who made wagon wheels and sometimes wagons. He was known for his fine craftsmanship and cabinet work done with tools which, though crude by today's standards, were said to be "the wonder of the neighborhood." Like all good neighbors in this rugged land, he helped others construct their houses and build the Little Pigeon Church.

Located in the backyard in close proximity to the cabin were a number of things important to the frontier family. A grindstone was used to sharpen tools; an ash hopper placed in a corner was used to make lye by pouring water over wood

ashes and collecting the substance that dripped from the bottom. This lye was then mixed with fat to make soap through a formula which called for six bushels of ashes plus fifty pounds of grease to equal one tub of soap. A large kettle was always available for rendering lard, making soap and doing the wash.

We hope you have enjoyed your visit to the Lincoln Living Historical Farm. If you have not yet done so, the National Park Service invites you to visit the other areas of the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial, including the Exhibit Shelter, the Grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln and the Visitor Center.

*Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial  
Lincoln City, Indiana*

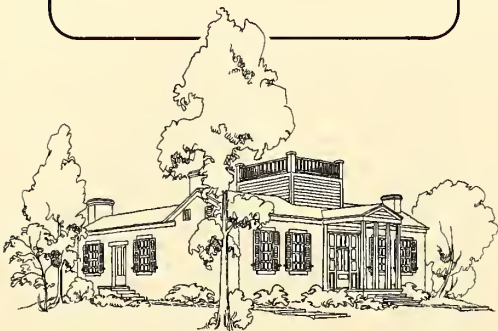
*Art by Karen Pierce  
Printed by Chatham Press, Inc.  
Old Greenwich, Connecticut, U.S.A.*

**U. S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**



# *Colonel William Jones House*

1834





**East room, before restoration**



**East room, after restoration**

Classic Revival embellishment. A large central hall is flanked by rooms with end chimneys, and a long cooking wing projects from the rear. The house has especially elegant woodwork in the east room; window jambs extend to the floor in pilaster fashion, cornices decorate the window and door lintels, and eleven-foot high cupboards, which still have original hardware, are built-in beside the fireplace.

Arietta Bullock's description, along with some foundation remnants, indicated the previous existence of a large pantry off the kitchen. Modern kitchen appliances and bathroom facilities are now hidden in the restoration of this old pantry, so that such present-day conveniences do not intrude upon the main part of the house.

Every attempt was made to preserve the 1834 design: no doors or windows were moved, no rooms divided. When woodwork was too decayed to use, new wood was carefully shaped to duplicate the old. All the

# Colonel William Jones House

## History

Colonel William Jones was born in Vincennes in 1800 and as a young man settled in Spencer County where he became a merchant, farmer, politician and soldier. He and his wife Rachel Oskins Jones first lived in a log house on the south side of the road which passed through their farm, and their store and post office stood alone on the opposite side of the road. When business prospered, they erected the present brick house next to the store. Oral tradition dates the beginning of construction at 1834.

A community consisting of perhaps a dozen log cabins grew up around the store and was known as Jonesboro. William and Rachel reared five boys in the little village—James, William, Henry Clay, Winfield Scott and Charles. Two other children were killed in a tragic gunpowder explosion and became the subject of ghost stories which later circulated in the neighborhood.

Jones employed Abraham Lincoln as a helper in his store until Lincoln departed for Illinois in 1830. Both Jones and nearby merchant James Gentry are mentioned in Lincoln literature as influential employers of the young Lincoln. In 1844 Lincoln visited Jones while making campaign speeches for Henry Clay's presidential candidacy. This overnight visit is described in an 1865 manuscript in the William Herndon collection in the Library of Congress.

From 1838 to 1841 Jones served as a Whig representative in the Indiana State Legislature. He was a lieutenant colonel in the Union Army, 53rd Regiment of



Before restoration





**William Jones**

Indiana Volunteers, until his death in the Battle of Atlanta on July 22, 1864. He is buried in Marietta National Cemetery in Georgia.

Sometime in the 1850's Colonel Jones and his family moved their business and residence one-half mile east to James Gentry's settlement, Gentryville, which had surpassed Jonesboro in importance. The Jones house then had a succession of owners until 1887 when it was purchased by George and Arietta Seward Bullock, whose heirs owned it until restoration began in 1976. All the log buildings which made up the rest of Jonesboro gradually disappeared, and the Jones house was surrounded by a hundred acres of forest.

Arietta Bullock's written history of Jonesboro, based upon her impressions as a young wife in 1887, includes a description of the Jones house and farm and was invaluable during restoration.

On May 12, 1975, the Jones property was listed on the National Register of Historic Places by the U.S. Department of the Interior and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

### **Restoration**

In 1976 the Colonel Jones house was purchased by William and Gayle Cook. It could not have stood much longer against the elements, as the soft brick walls, three bricks thick, were crumbling internally and could no longer support repairs. After much study, consultation and soul-searching, the decision was

made to carefully number, dismantle and reassemble every part of the house. This was the only way the house could be saved. Pritchett Brothers Contractors of Springville, Indiana, began the painstaking restoration in June of 1976.

The building was in dilapidated condition—plaster was falling down, floors were sagging, woodwork was rotted, windows were broken. One bright spot existed: except for an alteration to the second story, the house retained nearly its original design throughout, making accurate restoration possible. It had never been modernized or remodeled; not even plumbing had been added. The Bullock heirs had wisely prohibited any changes, hoping that someday restoration could take place and the original design would be intact for reference. Before any work was done, therefore, details of the house were photographed, measured and drawn on blueprints so that every feature could be faithfully preserved.

The one major alteration, made about 1910, was the removal of the second-story observatory. This tower room, surmounted by a scuttle hole and captain's walk, was a source of continual water leakage and was razed and roofed over by George Bullock. Its restoration design is based upon Mrs. Bullock's written description, clues left in attic construction, and recollections of long-time area residents. The observatory is an unusual feature on a Federal house.

The rest of the house is of typical Federal design with



original doors survived except two. Original glass exists in many of the windows. The stairway to the observatory was rebuilt upon a pattern faintly visible on the walls; the shape of the bottom step was still outlined on the wood floor under layers of linoleum. The floors are poplar, as is all the wood in the house, and they were repaired where necessary with old poplar salvaged from a Warrick County house. Iron fixtures from the original cooking fireplace were discovered when the rear wing was restored, and these were replaced in the fireplace masonry.

Outside, some of the largest red cedars in Indiana shade the spacious front lawn, and remains of intersecting brick walks can be detected in the grass. Lilacs and fruit trees are scattered over the grounds. Deer, foxes and woodchucks are occasionally seen in the clearing around the house. In the woods, the springs which once sustained the homesites of Jonesboro still flow across the farm toward Little Pigeon Creek.



*Photos in this brochure by Walter Niekamp.*

*Colonel William Jones House*  
Old Boonville-Corydon Road  
Gentryville, Indiana 47537  
(812) 336-3961

*Seven tenths of a mile west of Highway 231*



The Environmental Study Area, a part of the original Thomas Lincoln Farm, is for the enjoyment of everyone. Here you can walk the same land which Abraham Lincoln walked as a small boy, and study the elements in his surroundings that helped shape the young boy into the great man he became. As you walk this 2.4 kilometer (1.5 mile) loop trail try to imagine what this land was once like in pioneer days, and how man has changed it in the one and one-half centuries since the Thomas Lincoln family lived here.

Please stay on the established trails. Insect bites, poison ivy, and even an occasional snake may cause unnecessary discomfort. The flowers, animals, woods and the land belong to all of us. Please be careful not to damage or remove anything.

**1. SWEET GUM** (*Liquidambar styraciflua*)  
Pioneers ground the leaves of the gum tree for the treatment of sores and skin troubles, for chewing gum end for the treatment of dysentery. Its green star shaped leaves once crushed give out a clean sweet fragrance and have a tart taste.

**2. WOODLAND COMMUNITY**  
The overhead canopy of trees gives shade from the sun, and shelter from the wind, softens the fall of rain, and adds moisture and oxygen to the air. Later their decaying leaves, trunks and roots make the soil fertile. Many animals find food and shelter in the woods: worms, insects and moles in the soil; squirrels, owls and woodpeckers in the hollow trees; birds in the tree branches; and foxes and rabbits in underground burrows. Now imagine a dark haired youth in buckskin sitting with his back against a tree — reading, listening to the murmuring forest.

**3. THE FENCE ROW**  
Long ago a split rail fence would have been here. Later a rusting wire fence. Now look for a tangle of vines and small shrubs — natural fence. Rabbits, quail and other wildlife find food and shelter among these brambles and weeds.

**4. PIN OAK** (*Quercus palustris*)  
These large oak trees are common in moist forests. From the dead, drooping, pin-like lower branches in old forests made tough, durable pegs to help fasten together their log buildings. Pioneers often built their log cabins, bridges and barns of oak.

**5. OLD HOME SITE**  
Look around you. What has been happening here? This is actually an old home site and you can still see the remains of the foundation stones. What will it be like here twenty years from now if this site is left undisturbed? Things are more than you see at first glance! You "see" when you look closely — and it helps to use your imagination. Listen! Can you hear a baby crying? A tired mother's voice? Can you smell pork frying and woodsmoke? No? Turn on your imagination! A family lived here ages ago!

**6. SASSAFRAS** (*Sassafras albidum*)  
This common tree is usually found along the edge of the woods. It is easily recognized by its leaves, its reddish bark and its green young twigs. There are three different shaped leaves on this tree. Can you pick them out? Some leaves have three lobes or fingers, some look like mittens, and others have only one lobe or finger. The young stems and twigs have a spicy odor and taste. Pioneers made long lasting brown dye by boiling the roots. Sassafras wood was commonly used by the Lincoln family for fence posts, for split rails and for small kitchen utensils.

**7. OPEN FIELD — GRASSLAND COMMUNITY**  
Conditions for life here in this open field are different from those in the woods you just left. Here sunlight and wind are very intense, and the plants and animals that live here have adapted to these extremes. Rabbits, meadow mice, crickets and grasshoppers seek food and shelter among the tall grasses and herbs. Hawks, snakes and seed eating birds hunt by

day, while owls and foxes hunt here at night. Earthworms, ants and other earth dwelling animals aerate and fertilize the soil. Like the forest, a grassland can support only a limited number of plants and animals. What may happen if too many plants and animals try to live here? Why? Someday this grassland will be replaced by the rabbits, grass snakes and birds that live here now.

**8. ENVIRONMENTAL SHELTER**  
This resting place serves as a communications center for you. Here you will find a large cross section of a log. Count the rings on the tree to determine its age. How old was the tree when it was cut? By studying the rings on a stump or cross section of wood, you can tell the life history of that tree. If the Growth rings quite close together might indicate that the tree has endured dry years. While you rest, listen and think. How many different sounds can you hear? Which are men made? Natural? What changes will probably occur at this site in a month? A year? Ten years? Do you hear or see anything that is much like that of Lincoln's day?

**9. BLACK OAK** (*Quercus velutina*)  
Lumbermen recognize only two kinds of oak — "white" and "red" — from the color of their respective woods. Early pioneers also divided oaks into these two general classes, with "white oak" heavier, stronger, more durable and beautiful, and "red oak" weaker, coarser, and less resistant to decay. The black oak is actually a member of the red oak family and is restricted to the poorer soils, such as the clay, gravelly ridges on the hills of southern Indiana. In early spring, the unfolding leaves are a deep red, turning silvery within a few days. Early settlers in this region probably found black oaks of immense size and used the wood to build their cabins, sleds and wagons. Look up high in the tree for squirrels and red-bellied woodpeckers. Have you ever made an acorn pipe? Or a tiny set of acorn dishes?

**10. STAGHORN SUMAC** (*Rhus typhina*)  
Sumac is usually found in open fields or on the edge of a forest. The country people of the Appalachians, especially in Maryland and Virginia, took Sumac to the tanneries, because its leaves and twigs are rich in tannin, a substance used to preserve hides. The finest grades of leather were once cured in Sumac. The bark of the Staghorn Sumac is dark and usually very smooth. The twigs and leaves feel hairy to the touch. The long haired fruits of the Sumac have been found in the stomachs of many song birds, skunks, deer and moose. In autumn, the foliage is usually brilliant red.

**11. MAPLE** (*Acer saccharum*)  
Sugar maple leaves are three to five-lobed, with U-shaped clefts between the lobes as compared with the V-shaped clefts of the red and silver maples. Tradition says that the aquiline taught the Indians that the sap of the sugar maple was sweet, and the Indians taught the early settlers. Today, people all across America use maple syrup on their pancakes. The Lincoln family may have made syrup to sell or trade for other household needs. The shape of the maple tree is usually determined by the conditions under which it grows. When it has plenty of room to grow, the tree has a short trunk and oval top. In a forest, the tree seeks sunlight and may reach a height of 31 meters (100 feet). The winged maple seeds spin like helicopter blades. Throw some in the air and see!

**POISON IVY** (*Rhus radicans*) DANGER!!!  
Do Not Touch This Plant!

The old saying, "Leaflets three, let it be," means what it says! All parts of this three leaved plant contain an oil that causes irritation, blisters and swelling on contact. It grows as an erect shrub, as a trailing vine, or as a tree climber. Despite the poisonous effects of the plant on humans, the fruits are relished by over sixty species of birds including the bob white, pheasant,

and ruffed sharp tail grouse. Birds often spread the poison ivy seeds.

**12. HONEYUCKLE** (*Lonicera* spp.)  
Honeysuckle, with its fragrant blossoms, was introduced from Asia and has rapidly become naturalized in thickets and woodlands. This aggressive vine forms dense tangled climbing over underbrush or crawling over the open ground. It often wraps itself around young trees, eventually killing them. However, in cities and towns, honeysuckle may be found climbing trellises or old brick and stone buildings, giving an old world look. Sniff the air around blooming honeysuckle!

**13. PERSIMMON** (*Diospyros virginiana*)  
Your first bite into a persimmon could be an unforgettable experience if the fruit is not ripe! "If it is not ripe it will draw a mouth ewry with much torment." When the fruit is ripe, delicious cookies and puddings can be made from it. Animals depend upon this tree for food. Squirrels, foxes, raccoons, skunks, and above all, the opossum relish the soft fruit of the persimmon. The men in the Lincoln family shaped persimmon wood into wooden wedges, or gluts, and used these to split logs.

**14. HAWTHORN** (*Crataegus* spp.)  
Hawthorns, also known as red haws, are small thorny shrubs or small trees with long woody apices which can inflict a painful puncture wound if you are careless around them. The fruit is small, yellow to red in color, and is apple-like.

**15. AMERICAN OR WHITE ELM** (*Ulmus americana*)  
The elm is richly associated with America's past. "On this spot also stood an Elm . . ." So begins many a marker and many a sentence in history books. A large tree can have a million leaves and can cast a pool of shadow 31 meters (100 feet) in diameter. The elm has been planted extensively for shade and ornament. The early settlers in this area probably found little use for the elm. It is difficult to split for firewood. It burns with much smoke and little heat because it is full of water, and the elm fence posts rot quickly in the ground. Now lean back against the trunk of this elm and look up. See how the branches, like spokes of an umbrella or a wagon wheel hold the leafy canopy to the sun.

**16. WHAT GOOD IS A DEAD TREE?**  
If you study this tree closely, you can find a complete environment for many small plants and animals. Decaying trees and stumps are favorites of woodpeckers because the wood is soft and easily drilled. (Birds, such as woodpeckers, are valuable to men because they feed upon destructive beetles, ants and grubs.) So, sometime soon, this tree will fall and will slowly decompose to form humus, nature's fertilizer. It will return the minerals to the soil which were utilized during growth and thus provide food for new plant and animal life. To accomplish this, the dead tree has many helpers. Mushrooms grow upon and penetrate the wood, helping to crumble the tree trunk. Beetles, centipedes, millipedes and other small life forms burrow into and feed upon the dead tree.

**17. SYCAMORE** (*Platanus occidentalis*)  
The sycamore tree is easy to identify because its outer bark peels off in patches like "old, scraped off wall paper," exposing the white bark beneath. Its fruit is a ball of seeds. Its favorite habitat is along a creek or river where it often grows in North America. It has been called the largest hardwood in the earth. To the pioneer, the sycamore tree was a welcome sight since its presence and enormous growth indicated rich soil. Most living sycamores more than a hundred years old are hollow at the heart, in fact, the pioneers often stabled a horse, cow or pig in a hollow sycamore, and sometimes a whole family took shelter in one until their log cabin could be raised.

**18. BLACK CHERRY** (*Prunus serotina*)  
The black cherry tree may grow as high as 24 meters (80 feet),

spreading its branches with age. Compared to other cherries, this tree blooms late, in May or June. Its clusters of small white flowers give way to fruit which becomes tart and black by the time it ripens in late summer. Song birds do not let them hang long! And neither did black bears and their cubs during pioneer days. The Lincolns and their neighbors quickly learned to move quietly through the forest in late summer, especially near "cherry bear" trees.

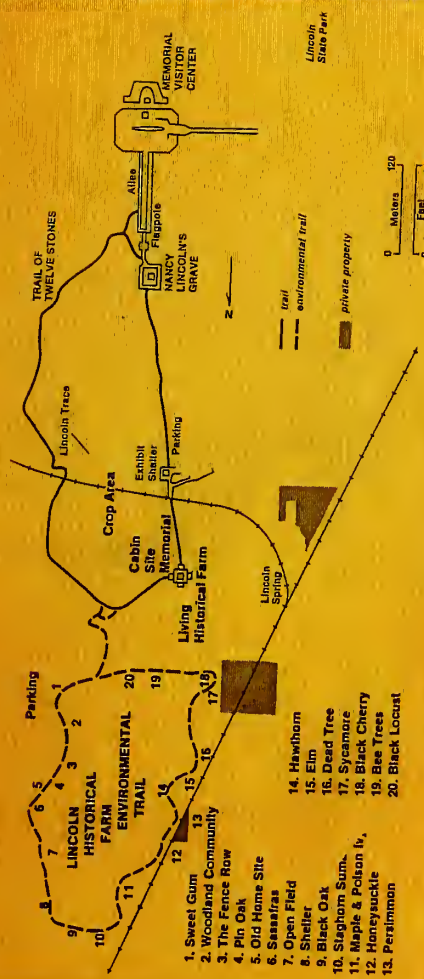
**19. BEE TREES**  
Look for a bee hive! Almost any hollow tree makes a good home for bees. In the early days of pioneer beekeeping, hollow trees were felled and cut into about one meter lengths (30 to 40 inches). The top and bottom of each section was then covered and after locating a wild hive, the settlers were ready to start beekeeping. The Lincoln family used the wild honey to sweeten their food and beverages. In home remedies and with their meals. Take a few minutes to watch and listen as the bees enter and leave their hives. Would you agree that honeybees are among nature's hardest workers and most interesting creatures?

**20. BLACK LOCUST** (*Robinia pseudo-acacia*)  
The locust, a medium size tree, is easily identified by its woody, sharp spines and its rows of small leaves. If you look closely you will find that each stem may have from seven to seventeen leaflets. Its fragrant white flowers appear in May or June. The very hard, close grained wood of the locust was used for fence posts, rails and barn nails. Bob whites, pheasants, mourning doves, rabbits and deer eat the seeds.

We hope you have enjoyed your walk through the Environmental Study Area. In this brief encounter, you have touched the environment that helped shape Abraham Lincoln's formative years from age seven to twenty-one.

Now take a few minutes and try your skill at answering these questions about your trip today.

1. What kind of tree has a star-shaped leaf?
2. What tree is easily recognized by its three differently shaped leaves?
3. In pioneer days, the finest grades of leather were preserved by a substance from what tree?
4. What tree was a food source for the pioneers? They made candy and syrup from the sap.
5. "Leaflets three, let it be," refers to what plant?
6. What flowering Asiatia plant climbs on, constricts and often kills young trees of the forest?
7. The unripe fruit of what tree would "draw a man's mouth ewry?"
8. What smell tree could, or maybe did, snag you or your clothes as you walked by? Its thorns are long and sharp.
9. What tree splits with difficulty, has water in it, and rots quickly, but provides shade and ornament?
10. What tree has bark like scraped off wallpaper? Pioneers stabled livestock in its hollow trunk.
11. Name the tree with tart black fruits favored by song birds and deer cubs.
12. Which tree can be identified by its small, sharp spines and leaves containing from seven to seventeen leaflets?



## LINCOLN HISTORICAL FARM ENVIRONMENTAL TRAIL



Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial  
Lincoln City, Indiana 47552







# LINCOLN BOYHOOD NATIONAL MEMORIAL GUIDE TO NATURAL RESOURCES

This guide is intended to provide insight into the interrelationship between man and the landscape. Pioneers on the southern Indiana frontier in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century lived close to the land. They looked to the natural environment for food, clothing, and shelter. Their survival was dependent on the resources they found and their ability to effectively utilize them. But in the process of doing so, they altered the environment as well. They hunted the wild animals and cleared the land. Those who followed them continued to reshape the land and the environment for varying reasons. Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial combines the commemorative and natural landscapes to serve as a useful example of the continuing evolution of the relationship between man and the world around him.

## FOR YOUR SAFETY:

Please stay on trails to avoid Poison Ivy and stinging insects. Use caution on steps, roads and railroad crossings.

## NATURAL HISTORY OF LINCOLN BOYHOOD NATIONAL MEMORIAL

When the Lincoln family arrived in Indiana in 1816, they found a largely unsettled and untamed wilderness. Native hardwood trees such as walnut, white oak, tulip poplar, red maple, Eastern redbud, sweet gum, ash and wild cherry were in abundance. It was from these trees that Thomas Lincoln, a carpenter, built his cabin and made many of the tools and implements necessary for a life on the frontier. White oak supplied shingles; tulip poplar became cabin walls; cherry wood was fashioned into the cabinets for which Thomas was well known.

The forest supplied more than just raw material for construction. It was, especially in the early years of settlement, a storehouse of foodstuffs. An abundance of wild fruit, nuts, herbs, and berries could be found in the thickly wooded area. It was also home to a variety of wild game such as panthers, black bears, wolves, raccoons, white tail deer, woodland buffalo, wild turkeys and passenger pigeons. In fact, it was because of the vast numbers of passenger pigeons in the area that the place became known as the Little Pigeon Creek Community.

Wildflowers, weeds and other plants also grew in the shade of the towering trees. But, amidst this bounty lay danger for the pioneers as well. It was the innocent looking white snakeroot plant that brought tragedy into the lives of many frontier families. The Lincolns were counted among them when Abraham's mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln, fell victim to the dreaded milksickness that resulted from the poisoning of the milk of a cow that ate the snake-root plant. His life, like the lives of many of the pioneers, was forever changed because of the environment in which he lived. For people who lived close to the land, the natural world often held the power of both life and death.

The lives of the pioneers were governed by the natural world in many ways. Not only did it contribute to their survival, but it shaped their daily lives as well. The transformation of the forest into cleared land suitable for agriculture was a task that continued for many years. Abraham Lincoln's famed proficiency with an axe was due directly to his nearly constant use of it during the 14 years he lived in Indiana. By the time Thomas had decided in 1830 to move his family to Illinois, he and his son had cleared and cultivated 40 acres. They no longer were dependent on the wild game and plants for survival, but their fortunes were still tied very closely to the land and the new environment they had helped to create.

#### THE CONTINUITY OF CHANGE

By 1830, the area in which Abraham Lincoln grew up was no longer considered a wilderness. Significant portions of the forest had been cleared, replaced by fields of corn, beans, and other agricultural produce. The populations of wild game had sharply diminished due to hunting and destruction of habitat. No longer did wolves, black bears, panthers and buffalo roam freely, and the passenger pigeon was on its way to becoming extinct before the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Beginning in the 1870s, the Little Pigeon Creek community evolved into the town of Lincoln City, with its railroad, streets, commercial buildings and homes. Remnants of the former pioneer settlements disappeared in the wake of the new development. By the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the area bore little resemblance to the wilderness the Lincolns and their neighbors had tamed.

In the 1920s, a state park was created to preserve this place where Abraham Lincoln grew to manhood. Recognizing that the natural environment in which he had lived had significantly influenced the shaping of his character, early park planners determined to work toward the restoration of the forest. It was their belief that seeing a landscape similar to what Lincoln had known as a boy would help visitors to gain insight into the man that he became.



At the same time that efforts were being made to restore the natural environment, early park proponents worked to create a commemorative landscape as well. The Cabin Site Memorial, the Memorial Visitor Center, and the trail of Twelve Stones are key components of this cultural landscape. They were designed to be in harmony with the natural landscape around them. It is this blending of natural and cultural features within the park, that makes Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial a testament not only to Abraham Lincoln and his fellow pioneers, but to those who followed. In addition to preserving this place so important to the life of this man, it represents the continuity of change that is present in all our lives.

#### THE TRAILS

Four walking trails are available within the park. Each is designed to give you a different sense of the landscape and the environment. Please stay on established trails. Insect bites, poison ivy, and the occasional snake, may cause unnecessary discomfort. Please remember that the natural resources belong to all of us; do not damage or remove anything.

#### THE LINCOLN BOYHOOD TRAIL

This trail begins at the Memorial Visitor Center and leads you to the Pioneer Cemetery and the Lincoln Living Historical Farm. On this trail, you will pass from the formal commemorative landscape of the Memorial Visitor Center plaza and the Allee to the wooded knoll where Nancy Hanks Lincoln and other pioneers are buried. The shrubs which line the walkways are Japanese dogwood. On either side of them are rows of tulip poplar trees. Dogwoods and redbud trees dot the landscape with beautiful pink and white blossoms in the spring. The leaves of the maples, sweet gums, sassafras and oaks are brilliant in autumn.

A variety of insects are found near the flagpole. Blue-tailed skinks can be seen sunning on the steps at the top of the Allee. Deer often graze near sunset in the grassy area of the Allee. Birds like scarlet tanagers

and bluebirds are often spotted flying in and out of the shrubbery. The trail leading from the cemetery to the Lincoln Living Historical Farm passes through a deciduous forest very much like the one that existed during the time the Lincolns were living here. Most of the trees you see were planted as part of the state's reforestation effort in the 1930s. The forest, however, does contain numerous types of flora and fauna. At the northern end of the trail, approaching the farm, the forest gives way to cultivated crop fields in much the same way that it did after Thomas, and his son Abraham, had spent years in the backbreaking task of clearing the land.

The Cabin Site Memorial is set among the surrounding trees and marks the location of one of the cabins that Thomas and Abraham built during their time here in Indiana.

### THE TRAIL OF TWELVE STONES

The Trail of Twelve Stones begins at the farm and ends near the flagpole. It passes through the oldest forest of the park and best represents what the entire property looked like at the time of the Lincolns' arrival in 1816. This primarily oak-hickory forest is able to support many types of wildlife. Acorns and hickory nuts and other seeds are important food sources for small mammals such as gray squirrels, chipmunks, and rodents. Large populations of small mammals, in turn, allow this forest to support other animals such as red foxes, coyotes, snakes, owls, and other birds of prey. Whitetail deer are abundant here due, in part, to a lack of natural predators and a reduction of habitat elsewhere in the vicinity. Intermittent streams and ponds throughout the forest support amphibian and insect reproduction which provides another important food source for animals such as birds, reptiles, raccoons, opossums and shrews.

### THE BOYHOOD NATURE TRAIL

Located in the northern portion of the park, the nature trail passes through an undeveloped area and represents a successional forest. Succession is the shift of plant communities from a field filled with

highly competitive grasses and plants to mature forest. The process takes decades, if not centuries. As late as 1985, no trees were present in the majority of this area. Although the National Park Service has done some planting to encourage the re-growth of an oak-hickory forest, the process has been allowed to primarily occur naturally. Future management actions, such as planting and controlled burning, are being considered to facilitate the process.

In a successional forest, small trees and shrubs gradually take the place of grasses only to be replaced, in time, by larger trees. Competition for nutrients, water and sunlight favor growth of certain species. Oaks and hickories replace maple, dogwood and ash, which then become the understory trees of the mature forest. Fallen trees and decaying vegetation provide shelter for wildlife. As the succession process continues, this area will harbor a growing number of wildlife species.

#### THE LINCOLN SPRING TRAIL

This short trail begins to the west of the Living Historical Farm and leads to the site of the spring that was the Lincolns' primary source of water. On either side of the trail are trees similar to those found throughout the park. Wildlife is limited in this area due to modern intrusions such as roads and the railroad.

The spring represents another natural resource that was of vital importance to all pioneers on the frontier. A safe, reliable source of drinking water often determined where a family decided to settle. The presence of this spring helped to assure Thomas Lincoln that he and his family could survive in this place.

#### USE OF NATIVE PLANTS BY PIONEERS

The pioneers, especially in the early years of settlement, relied on the resources of the forest for their daily living. Plants and animals provided food, shelter, and other needs. Many of the plants and animals utilized by the pioneers still exist within the park's forest.



For instance, the leaves and berries of the *spicebush* were used as a spice and for making tea. The roots of the *sassafras* were collected and boiled for making teas and to make brown dye for cloth. The ripe fruits of the *persimmon* trees were harvested in the fall and eaten plain or made into cakes, puddings, and cookies. The wood of the trees is very hard and makes excellent wedges for use in splitting logs.

The wood of the *dogwood tree* was utilized for knitting needles and sled runners because of its smooth texture. It also can be fashioned into wedges for splitting wood. The leaves of the *sweetgum tree* were ground for medicinal purposes and were chewed like gum.

#### NON-NATIVE PLANTS AND ANIMALS

Because of the many changes that the landscape within the park has undergone over the years, it also has a substantial number of non-native plants. A non-native plant is one that was not present prior to settlement of the United States, or is found far outside of its normal range due to human intervention. Many of these species, when placed in an ecosystem other than their native one will compete with the native species. Because they often have no natural controls, these exotics can consequently destroy the naturally occurring species.

Many of the exotics that are present within the park were intentionally planted in the area during the Lincoln City period as ornamentals. An especially troublesome example of this is the *Japanese Honeysuckle*. A pervasive woody vine, it wraps around small trees, stunting their growth and producing abnormalities. In some cases, it can even kill species that can not compete with it for sunlight.

Another problem plant is the *Japanese Knotweed*, which can be found along the Boyhood Nature Trail. Growing as a vine, it quickly covers anything in its path. By late summer the vine can even reach the top of canopy trees. Because it grows so fast, it can quickly cut off sunlight to slower growing native species, which, unable to compete, will often die.



## WILDLIFE

Like the vegetation, the composition of wildlife at Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial has changed since the frontier period.

Reduction of habitat and hunting lead to the demise of such species as bears, wolves, and panthers that once roamed these woods. The following animals have been identified during recent wildlife inventories; other animals may be present but remain undetected.

### Large Mammals

Virginia Opossum

Raccoon

White-tailed Deer

Red Fox

Coyote

### Small Mammals

White-footed Mouse

Deer Mouse

House Mouse

Short-tailed shrew

Bats

### Birds

Numerous species have been identified in the park. For a complete listing, ask a ranger for a copy of the bird list.

### Amphibians and Reptiles

Skink

Eastern box turtle

Garter snake

### Species that no longer exist with the park:

Black Bear

Passenger pigeon

Panthers

Wolves

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

Lincoln Boyhood Drama Ass'n.  
Lincoln City, IN 47552

**YES**, I want to help make Lincoln's boyhood come alive in a music drama. My contribution:

- ☐ Regular annual membership \$ 25.00  
☐ Sustaining annual membership \$ 50.00  
☐ Supporting membership \$500.00

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_

## RECEIPT

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ 19\_\_\_\_

Received from: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Cash ☐ Check

By: \_\_\_\_\_

*Wishing You the  
Toy of All Seasons  
Inviting you to share our  
Magnificent Dream  
The Music Drama of  
Abe Lincoln's Boyhood  
And his Hoosier years on  
the pioneer scene.*

### *~Memberships~*

*Regular 25.00 Annually  
Sustaining 50.00 Annually  
Supporting 500.00 or more*

*Contributions in memory  
of loved ones gratefully  
accepted. 25.00 or over.  
(Gifts acknowledged and cer-  
tificate mailed promptly.)*

*Mail to  
Lincoln Boyhood Drama  
Ass'n.  
Lincoln City, Indiana 47552  
John P. Chrisney-Treas.*

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial



## Lincoln Living Historical Farm



Plowing the fields with a two horse team.

The Lincoln Living Historical Farm is a working pioneer homestead with a log cabin, outbuildings, split rail fences, livestock, gardens, and field crops. Rangers dressed in period clothing perform a variety of activities typical of daily life in the 1820s. The Living Historical Farm is open every day from mid-April through September. From October through mid-April the buildings are closed and are not staffed. Visitors however are invited to visit and browse around the farm site.

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial



## The Nancy Hanks Lincoln Gravesite



Unmarked gravesite of Nancy Hanks Lincoln in the 1860s.

In 1868, a Civil War veteran named William Q. Corbin visited the boyhood home of his former commander-in-chief. Corbin was dismayed by the unkempt appearance of Nancy Hanks Lincoln's gravesite and wrote a poem on the subject. His poem, published in the *Rockport Journal* in November 1868, was among the first known public accounts of the grave's condition.

Finally, in 1874, a Rockport businessman by the name of Joseph D. Armstrong erected a two-foot tall marker with Nancy Hanks Lincoln's name inscribed on it at the site. But by 1879, this marker had disappeared and the site was again overgrown with vegetation and almost inaccessible. A newspaper article reporting the neglect prompted Peter E. Studebaker, second vice-president of the Studebaker Carriage Company, to contact Rockport postmaster L. S. Gilkey with instructions to buy the best tombstone available for \$50.00 and place it anonymously on the site. Another \$50.00, solicited from the area residents, paid for an iron fence around the grave.



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial  
Indiana



## A Future President Grows Up



One of five sculptured panels on the exterior of the Memorial Visitor Center carved by E.H. Daniels.

Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial preserves the site of the farm where Abraham Lincoln spent 14 formative years of his life, from the ages of 7 to 21. He and his family moved to Indiana in 1816 and stayed until 1830 when they moved on to Illinois. During this period, Lincoln grew physically and intellectually into a man. The people he knew here and the things he experienced had a profound influence on his life. His sense of honesty, his belief in the importance of education and learning, his respect for hard work, his compassion for his fellow man, and his moral convictions about right and wrong were all born of this place and this time. The time he spent here helped shape the man that went on to lead the country. This site is our most direct tie with that time of his life. Lincoln Boyhood preserves the place where he learned to laugh with his father, cried over the death of his mother, read the books that opened his mind, and triumphed over the adversities of life on the frontier.

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial



## The Memorial Building



Limestone exterior of the Memorial building.

The Memorial Building, completed in 1943, was designed and built in the spirit of Indiana in 1816. The architect described this spirit as:

*Whatever is built should be a forthright expression of honesty, simplicity and dignity, qualities that we associate with Lincoln and his mother. There should be no false construction or design. Materials should be native and largely hand worked. Design should be suggested by the best practice of the days when Nancy Hanks was a young woman. Not a design suggestive of the log cabins she lived in but a type of structure that might have been built by one of the best builders of the period to commemorate an illustrious pioneer.*

With this philosophy in mind, the building was designed with two halls and a connecting cloister. The resulting Memorial Court features five sculpted panels marking significant periods in the life of Abraham Lincoln. The Memorial is wholly a Hoosier creation, constructed of Indiana limestone and sandstone, with all timber cut from trees native to the area.

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial



### The Cabin Site Memorial



Bronze fireplace hearth and cabin sill logs

Indiana celebrated its centennial in December 1916. Among the centennial programs was a thrust to identify locations important to the state's history. In 1917, Spencer County's centennial commission requested the assistance of older residents of the county in determining the exact location of Thomas Lincoln's cabin. Twenty such residents assembled on the historic property and pointed to a site they believed to be correct. A marker was erected on the site on April 28, 1917.

In May 1933, a Civilian Conservation Corps crew excavated 300 historic hearthstones, constructed a stone wall around the site and landscaped the grounds. In July 1935, a bronze casting in the shape of the historic cabin sill and hearth was placed on the site.



# Lincoln Boyhood

National Memorial  
Indiana



## General Information Sheet

Abraham Lincoln spent fourteen of the most formative years of his life and grew from youth into manhood (1816-1830) on this Southern Indiana soil. Many of the character traits and moral values that made Abraham one of the world's most respected leaders were formed and nurtured here. His mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln, is buried on a wooded knoll in the park.

**ADDRESS:** Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial  
P.O. Box 1816  
Lincoln City, IN 47552  
Telephone: (812) 937-4541  
[www.nps.gov/libo](http://www.nps.gov/libo)

**HOURS OF OPERATION:** Daily: 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Central Time. From Memorial Day through Labor Day, hours are extended to 5 p.m. Closed New Years Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day. The park grounds are open daily from dawn to dusk.

**DIRECTIONS:** The park is located on Indiana Highway 162, 8 miles south of Interstate 64. Exit the Interstate at US 231 (exit 57) and travel south on U.S. 231 to Gentryville, then east on Indiana Highway 162, following the signs to "Lincoln Parks."

**FEES:** Admission to the park is \$3 per person age 17 or over, with a maximum charge of \$5 per family. The entrance fee receipt permits visitors to return to the park, without charge, for seven days from the date of purchase. There is no entrance fee for visitors who present a National Park Pass, a Golden Age Passport, a Golden Access Passport, or an annual Lincoln Boyhood Park Pass. These passports are available for purchase at the park.

**RESERVATIONS:** Conducted tours for schools and other organized groups should be arranged in advance. Reservations are strongly encouraged. Reservations can be made by calling (812) 937-4541. Arrangements for a spring visit should be made as early as possible.

**RECOMMENDED ACTIVITIES:** Your first stop should include the Memorial Visitor Center where Park Rangers will provide orientation and information on the park. The Visitor Center features two Memorial Halls, a museum with a variety of exhibits and an orientation film. It is a short walk from the Memorial Center up the Lincoln Boyhood Trail to the gravesite of Nancy Hanks Lincoln and an additional 400 yards to the Cabin Site Memorial and the Lincoln Living Historical Farm. From the farm, walk the historical Trail of Twelve Stones which features notable places in Lincoln's life. This trail will return you to the Memorial Visitor Center. Allow approximately two hours to visit.

## FACILITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES:

**VISITOR CENTER, EXHIBITS:** The exterior of the Memorial Visitor Center features sculptured panels. Inside there is a small museum, orientation film and the Abraham Lincoln and Nancy Hanks Lincoln Memorial Halls. Exhibits focus on the story of the Lincolns as pioneers on the Indiana frontier.

**LIVING HISTORY:** The Lincoln Living Historical Farm is a working pioneer homestead with a log cabin, outbuildings, split rail fences, livestock, gardens, and field crops. Rangers dressed in period clothing perform a variety of activities typical of daily life in the 1820s. The Living Historical Farm is open every day from mid-April



through September. From November through mid-April the buildings are closed and are not staffed. Visitors however are invited to visit and browse around the farm site.

**TRAILS, ROADS:** There are three established trails in the park—The Lincoln Boyhood Trail connects the Memorial Visitor Center and the Lincoln Living Historical Farm. This trail leads to the gravesite of Abraham's mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln, the Cabin Site Memorial and the Lincoln Living Historical Farm. The Trail of Twelve Stones begins at the Living Historical Farm and brings you back to the gravesite of the Memorial Visitor Center. Most visitors combine these two trails as a loop walk; the distance is approximately one mile. The Lincoln Boyhood Nature Trail is a circular self-guided trail, approximately one mile in length, which winds through a natural reforested area. Trail Guides are available. Inquire at the information desk in the Visitor Center.

**PROGRAMS, ACTIVITIES:** In the summer months, there are regularly scheduled Ranger led talks and living history demonstrations at both the Memorial Visitor Center and the Living Historical Farm.

**LODGING/CAMPING AND FOOD:** Motels, food and supplies can be obtained in nearby Dale or Santa Claus, Indiana; camping facilities are available at Lincoln State Park which is adjacent to Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial.

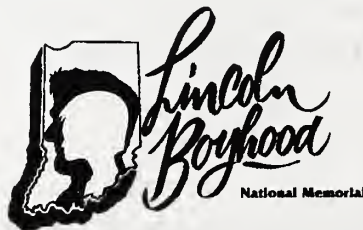
**OTHER:** Books, postcards and other educational materials are offered for sale in the bookstore located in the Memorial Visitor Center. It is operated by the Eastern National Cooperating Association.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** Most features of the park are accessible to persons with disabilities. Adjacent to Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial is the Lincoln State Park. Camping, picnicking, hiking, swimming, boating, fishing and the "Young Abe Lincoln Drama" are available there. Also nearby are the Colonel William Jones House, Holiday World and Splashin' Safari and the St. Meinrad Archabbey. Brochures on these attractions are available at the information desk in the Memorial Visitor Center.

We appreciate your interest in the National Park Service and Lincoln Boyhood Memorial and look forward to being of service to you by providing an educational and memorable visit. Should you have any questions, please contact the park at the address or telephone number on the reverse side or [www.nps.gov/libo](http://www.nps.gov/libo).

"The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage."

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA



# Lincoln Boyhood

National Memorial  
Indiana



## A Tribute to America's National Parks

The National Parks of the United States are the quintessential natural and historic resources of the people of America. From Yellowstone to Gettysburg, from Yosemite Valley to Independence Hall, from the Grand Canyon to the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial, the national park areas are special places which command the awe and affection of the country and the world. With the establishment of Yellowstone National Park in March 1872, the United States pioneered a unique national park system designed to preserve and protect the natural and scenic wonders of the country. In subsequent years, additional national parks and monuments were authorized, including areas of significant historical interest. On August 25, 1916, Congress established in the Department of the Interior, the National Park Service with the special mission of overseeing and administering the system. It was meant to be, and is, the steward of our American heritage.

The federal government became involved in setting aside land for public use as early as 1832, when Congress reserved acreage in the Hot Springs region of Arkansas, but the first area to be designated as a national park was Yellowstone. By the Act of March 1, 1872, Congress set aside the primeval wonderland in the Territories of Wyoming and Montana "as a public park or pleasuring ground for the benefit and enjoyment of the people." The founding of Yellowstone National Park began a worldwide national park movement.

In the years following, the United States authorized additional national parks and monuments, most of them carved from the federal lands of the west. On August 25, 1916, Congress created the National Park Service to "...promote and regulate the use of the...national parks, monuments and reservations...and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

In 1919, the system expanded with the establishment of Acadia National Park in Maine, the first national park in the east. In 1933, 63 national monuments and military sites were transferred to the National Park Service from other federal agencies. From these beginnings a large and diversified system of natural, recreational, and cultural areas developed.

Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial is a proud member of that system. Established in 1962, it preserves the site of Abraham Lincoln's boyhood home. In this place he lived from the time he was seven years old until he was 21 years old. During that 14 years he grew from a young boy to a young man. That man went on to become one of this country's greatest presidents. This site, where he learned so many of the values and developed so many of the characteristics that would set him apart from others is an especially important link in the story of his remarkable life. The National Park Service is proud to be entrusted with its care.

The idea that became reality with Yellowstone has grown considerably since 1872. But from its inception, the National Park Service has worked toward the basic goal of protecting and preserving our natural and cultural resources, while at the same time providing for their use and enjoyment by the people. It has been, and continues to be, a challenging mission and it requires the support of all citizens. The wonders of nature and the achievements of our people represented by the National Park System are the heritage of our nation and legacy for the future.

“The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.”

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA





# Lincoln Boyhood

National Memorial  
Indiana



## The Trail of Twelve Stones

The Trail of Twelve Stones connects the homesite of Abraham Lincoln's youth with the pioneer cemetery where his mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln, is buried. The stones were obtained and placed by the Indiana Lincoln Union in 1933. Beginning just east of the Cabin Site Memorial on the Thomas Lincoln Farm, the stones are arranged in chronological order at irregular intervals along the trail. They commemorate major events in Lincoln's life and career. At each site along the trail, a small bronze tablet briefly explains the events associated with the memorial stone.

The first stone originates from the traditional birthplace of Abraham Lincoln on the Sinking Spring Farm near Hodgenville, Kentucky, where he was born on Sunday, February 12, 1809.

The second stone is the original Indiana cabin site marker that was donated by the citizens of Spencer County. This stone memorializes young Abraham's 14 boyhood years in Indiana.

The third stone comes from the foundation of the William Jones store where the teenaged Lincoln worked as a clerk. The store was located three miles west of here and seven tenths of a mile west of Gentryville, Indiana.

The fourth stone was part of the foundation of the Vincennes Sun Newspaper in Vincennes, Indiana, where Lincoln first viewed a printing press. The Lincoln family stopped in Vincennes during their move to Illinois in early March 1830.

The fifth stone was a gift of the Illinois Department of Conservation from the foundation of the Berry-Lincoln store in New Salem, Illinois. In 1832, Lincoln bought a half-interest in the store and went into business with William Berry.

The sixth stone is comprised of four bricks set in concrete. The bricks were brought from Lexington, Kentucky, the home of Mary Todd, wife of Abraham Lincoln. The mayor of Lexington donated the bricks.

The seventh stone is from the White House in Washington, D.C. Abraham Lincoln lived there as president from March 4, 1861 to April 15, 1865.

The eighth stone is from the Anderson Cottage at the National Soldiers Home in Washington, D.C. where Lincoln wrote the Emancipation Proclamation in September of 1862.

The ninth stone came from the Civil War battlefield at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania where Lincoln delivered his famous address on November 19, 1863. This stone was a gift of the War Department.

The tenth stone was part of the Old Capitol building in Washington, D.C. There, Lincoln made his second inaugural address on March 4, 1865. This well-known Lincoln speech included these words, "to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves, and with all nations."

The eleventh stone is a piece of an original porch pillar from the Peterson House in Washington, D.C., the house where Lincoln died. General U.S. Grant III donated the column section when he was in charge of the house. The pillar was cut from Seneca Creek sandstone quarried near Washington, D.C.



The twelfth stone is a block of granite, excess to the remodeling of the Lincoln Tomb at Springfield, Illinois. It is called the Culver Stone in honor of its donor, J.S. Culver, the contractor for the remodeling job, who had it carved as a memorial to Lincoln's mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln. The Culver Stone was originally placed in front of the Nancy Hanks Lincoln headstone in the cemetery here. Dedicated on October 1, 1902, the stone remained there until 1933 when it was moved to its present position to mark the end of the Trail of Twelve Stones.

"The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage."

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA



# **FORTY QUESTIONS ABOUT ABRAHAM LINCOLN**

Welcome to Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial. Here are some questions about our 16th President. Take a few minutes and try your skill at answering them.

1. Give the day, date, and year of Abraham Lincoln's birth.  
Sunday, February 12, 1809.
2. In what county and state was Lincoln born?  
He was born in what was then Hardin County, Kentucky, and what is now Larue County.
3. What modern Kentucky town has grown up near his birthplace?  
Hodgenville, Kentucky.
4. Who were the parents of Abraham Lincoln?  
Thomas and Nancy Hanks Lincoln.
5. How many years did Abraham live in Kentucky?  
He lived there for seven years.
6. Abraham had a sister and a brother; can you name them?  
He had an older sister named Sarah who died in childbirth on January 20, 1828. He had a younger brother named Thomas Jr. who died as a child about 1814.
7. In what month and year did Abraham and his family come to Indiana?  
In December of 1816, they reached their new home in Indiana —about the time the State came into the Union.
8. Abraham's mother Nancy died October 5, 1818; what caused her death?  
White snakeroot poisoning, called "milk sickness."
9. How old was Abraham when his mother died?  
Abraham was nine years old.
10. Where is his mother buried?  
In the Nancy Hanks Lincoln Cemetery, located on the grounds of the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial, Lincoln City, Indiana.
11. What did Thomas Lincoln do for a living?  
Abraham's father Thomas was a farmer and a skilled carpenter.
12. What church did Lincoln's parents belong to in Indiana?  
The Little Pigeon Primitive Baptist Church.
13. What was the name of Abraham's step-mother?  
Her name was Sarah Bush Johnston.
14. To what large city and state did Abraham Lincoln and his friend Allen Gentry embark on their first flatboat trading trip?  
They went to New Orleans, Louisiana in 1828.

15. Name Abraham's step-sisters and step-brother.  
Their names were Elizabeth, Matilda, and John Johnston.
16. How many years did Abraham Lincoln live in Indiana?  
He lived here for fourteen years; from December 1816 to March 1830.
17. To what county and state did the Lincolns move in 1830?  
They went to Macon County, Illinois, then to Coles County near Charleston, Illinois.
18. Where in Illinois did Abraham Lincoln first live by himself?  
He went to New Salem, near the modern Illinois city of Petersburg.
19. In what year did Lincoln become a lawyer?  
In 1837 he became a lawyer, and he practiced law for over twenty years.
20. What was the maiden name of Lincoln's wife?  
Her name was Mary Todd. She was born and raised in Lexington, Kentucky.
21. How old was Abraham when he married?  
He was 33 years old; his wife Mary was 24 years old. They were married November 4, 1842.
22. Name Abraham and Mary's four sons.  
Robert Todd, Edward Baker, William Wallace, and Thomas, better known as "Tad" were the four sons.
23. In what year did Lincoln become President of the United States?  
He assumed office in March, 1861.
24. In the numerical listing of Presidents of the United States, what number was Lincoln?  
He was the 16th President of the United States.
25. When did Lincoln sign the Emancipation Proclamation?  
January 1, 1863.
26. What national holiday did Lincoln proclaim in 1863?  
He made Thanksgiving a national holiday.
27. On November 19, 1863, Lincoln delivered his most famous speech. He began this speech with the words "Four score and seven years ago." What is the name of this famous speech?  
The Gettysburg Address was Lincoln's most famous speech.
28. Lincoln was elected President two times. Can you name both of his Vice-Presidents?  
Hannibal Hamlin and Andrew Johnson were Lincoln's Vice-Presidents.
29. Name Lincoln's Secretary of War who said the immortal words, "And now he belongs to the ages?"  
His name was Edwin M. Stanton.
30. On what day of religious significance was Lincoln assassinated?  
He was shot on Good Friday, April 14, 1865.
31. What was the date and exact time Abraham Lincoln died?  
He died April 15, 1865, at 7:22 a.m.
32. Name the place where Lincoln was shot.  
He was shot in Ford's Theater in Washington, D.C.
33. What was the full name of Lincoln's assassin?  
He was the actor, John Wilkes Booth.

34. What was the name of the town where Robert E. Lee surrendered to Ulysses S. Grant, officially ending the Civil War?  
The surrender was at Appomattox Court House, Virginia, on Palm Sunday, April 9, 1865.
35. How old was Abraham Lincoln when he died?  
Lincoln was 56 years old. He had lived seven years in Kentucky, fourteen years in Indiana, thirty years in Illinois, and four years in Washington, D.C.
36. How old was Abraham Lincoln's one surviving son, Robert Todd, at the time of his father's death?  
Robert Todd was twenty-one years old when his father died.
37. True or False: Abraham Lincoln was the first American President to be assassinated.  
True - Four American Presidents have been assassinated: Abraham Lincoln, James A. Garfield, William McKinley, and John F. Kennedy.
38. Where is Abraham Lincoln buried?  
Abraham, his wife Mary Todd, and their three younger sons (Edward Baker, William Wallace, and Thomas) are buried in the Lincoln Tomb at Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield, Illinois. Their oldest son, Robert Todd Lincoln, is buried at Arlington National Cemetery near Washington, D.C.
39. In how many states did Lincoln live? Name them in the order in which he lived in them.  
He lived in three states: Kentucky from 1809 to 1816, Indiana from 1816 to 1830, and Illinois from 1830 to 1860.
40. Name three Midwestern National Parks that commemorate the life of Abraham Lincoln.  
Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site in Kentucky, Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial in Indiana, and Lincoln Home National Historic Site in Illinois.

**These are some of the facts about Abraham Lincoln's life. Facts are important, but what is more important is what they mean. As you visit Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial, ask yourself other questions, such as why was Abraham Lincoln important to our country, what made him the great man he became, or in what ways would you like to be like Lincoln. This park is a good starting point to answer these questions. Enjoy your visit.**

---

**EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA**

"The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage."



# LINCOLN RETURNS TO HIS BOYHOOD HOME

In 1844, fourteen years after the Lincolns left Indiana, Abraham Lincoln returned to visit the neighborhood in which he was raised and where his mother and only sister were buried. Appropriately, it was politics which brought him back. Henry Clay, a man he "...revered as a teacher and a leader..." was seeking the presidency and Lincoln thought "...he might carry the state for Mr. Clay."

During the month of October, Lincoln made political speeches in Vincennes, Washington, Rockport, Carter Township, Gentryville, Boonville, and Evansville. Unfortunately, none of his speeches were preserved and only one newspaper even reported on them. According to the Rockport *Herald* of November 1, 1844, "Mr. Lincoln of Springfield, Illinois, addressed a large and respectable audience at the court house on Wednesday evening last, upon Whig policy. His main argument was directed in pointing out the advantages of a Protective Tariff. He handled the subject in a manner that done honor to himself and the Whig cause. Other subjects were investigated in a like manner. His speech was plain, argumentative and of an hour's duration." Despite the fact that Henry Clay carried Spencer County by 90 votes, the State of Indiana went for James K. Polk in the election.

Lincoln's sensitive nature and the feelings he held for his Indiana home are revealed in two poems he wrote as a result of this visit to Indiana. The twenty-one stanza poem, "My Childhood Home" reveals the pleasure he felt with the re-establishment of old friendships from his boyhood days in Indiana. The twenty-two stanza poem, "The Bear Hunt" vividly describes some of the wildlife in Indiana and the pleasure Lincoln's friends and neighbors took in the hunt.

Though he never returned to his boyhood home, Lincoln did visit Indiana again in 1855, 1859, 1860, and 1861 for either political or professional reasons. His last contact with the state came in 1865 when his funeral train passed through thirty Indiana towns during its long, mournful journey back to Illinois for his burial.

---

## EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

"The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage."

# ABRAHAM LINCOLN

## AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL LETTER

December 20, 1859

In 1859, Republicans in Illinois were urging Abraham Lincoln to try for the nomination for President. So that Republicans elsewhere could know the facts of Lincoln's life, a resident of Springfield, J.W. Fell, asked Lincoln for a "sketch" of his life. Fell requested the sketch on behalf of Joseph J. Lewis of West Chester, Pennsylvania, who used it in preparing an article on Lincoln, published in the Chester County Times, February 11, 1860. The article was widely copied in Republican papers. The letter Lincoln sent to Fell, and the text of the sketch are as follows:

J.W. Fell, Esq.

MY dear Sir:

Springfield

Dec. 20, 1859

Herewith is a little sketch, as you requested. There is not much of it, for the reason, I suppose, that there is not much of me. If anything be made out of it, I wish to be modest, and not to go beyond the material. If it were thought necessary to incorporate any thing from any of my speeches, I suppose there would be no objection. Of course it must not appear to have been written by myself.

Yours very truly

A. LINCOLN

I was born Feb. 12, 1809, in Hardin County, Kentucky. My parents were both born in Virginia, of undistinguished families--second families, perhaps I should say, My mother, who died in my tenth year, was of a family of the name of Hanks, some of whom now reside in Adams, and others in Macon counties, Illinois. My paternal grandfather, Abraham Lincoln, emigrated from Rockingham County, Virginia, to Kentucky, about 1781 or 2, where a year or two later, he was killed by Indians, not in battle, but by stealth, when he was laboring to open a farm in the forest. His ancestors, who were quakers, went to Virginia from Berks County, Pennsylvania. An effort to identify them with the New England family of the same name ended in nothing more definite, than a similarity of Christian names in both families, such as Enoch, Levi, Mordecai, Solomon, Abraham, and the like.

My father, at the death of his father, was but six years of age; and he grew up, literally without education. He removed from Kentucky to what is now

Spencer county, Indiana, in my eighth year. We reached our new home about the time the State came into the Union. It was a wild region, with many bears and other wild animals still in the woods. There I grew up. There were some schools, so called; but no qualification was ever required of a teacher, beyond "reading, writin, and cipherin" to the Rule of Three. If a straggler supposed to understand latin happened to sojourn in the neighborhood, he was looked upon as a wizzard. There was absolutely nothing to excite ambition for education. Of course when I came of age I did not know much. Still somehow, could read, write, and cipher to the Rule of Three; but that was all. I have not been to school since. The little advance I now have upon this store of education, I have picked up from time to time under the pressure of necessity.

I was raised to farm work, which I continued till I was twenty two. At twenty one I came to Illinois, and passed the first year in Illinois--Macon county. Then I got to New-Salem, (at that time in Sangamon. now in Menard county,) where I remained a year as a sort of Clerk in a store. Then came the Black-Hawk war: and I was elected a Captain of Volunteers--a success which gave me more pleasure than any I have had since. I went the campaign, was elated, ran for the Legislature the same year (1832) and was beaten--the only time I have been beaten by the people. The next, and three succeeding biennial elections, I was elected to the Legislature. I was not a candidate afterwards. During this

Legislative period I had studied law, and removed to Springfield to practice it. In 1846 I was once elected to the lower House of Congress. Was not a candidate for re-election. From 1849 to 1854, both inclusive, practiced law more assiduously than ever before. Always a whig in politics, and generally on the whig electoral tickets, making active canvasses. I was losing interest in politics, when the repeal of the Missouri Compromise aroused me again. What I have done since then is pretty well known.

If any personal description of me is thought desirable, it may be said, I am, in height, six feet, four inches, nearly; lean in flesh, weighing, on an average, one hundred and eighty pounds; dark complexion, with coarse black hair, and grey eyes--no other marks or brands recollected.

Yours very truly A. Lincoln

Hon. J.W. Fell.

---

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

"The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage."



# NANCY HANKS LINCOLN CEMETERY

Located on the grounds of Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial, Clay Township, Spencer County, Indiana.

## MARKED GRAVES

1. Lincoln

Nancy Hanks, "Mother of President Lincoln" d Oct 5, 1818, aged 35 y  
"Erected by a friend of her martyred son 1879"

2. Rhodes

"Mother" Mary E., b Feb 14, 1852,  
d May 16, 1900, "Erected by sisters  
Minnie and Sallie"

3. Morris

Josephus, s/o D.C. & V.L., b Mar 12, 1844, d Mar 12, 1899

4. Morris

Susanna, b Feb 9, 1851, d Jul 23, 1897

5. Ludwig

Bertha A., d/o John & L., b Nov 7, 1886, d May 6, 1899

6. Huff

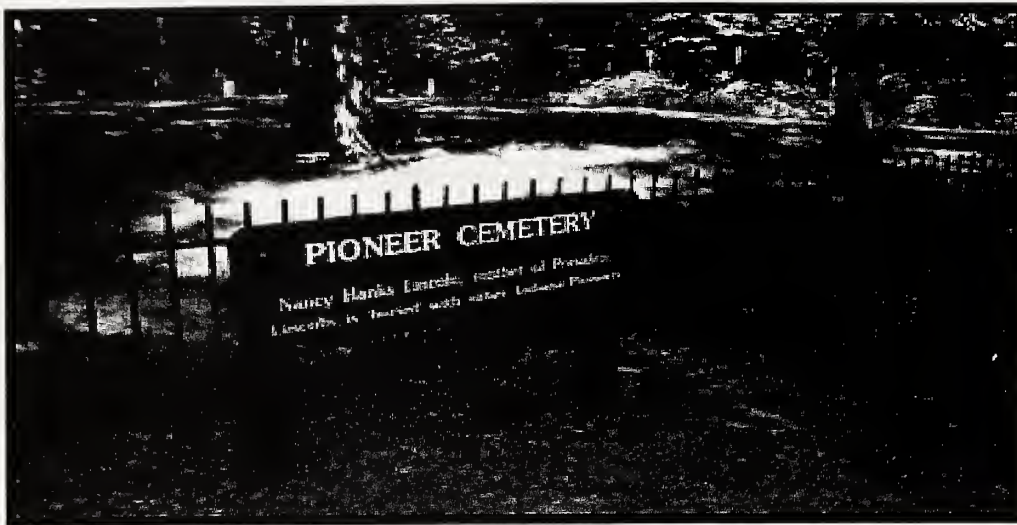
Salley, w/o Thomas, b Jun 21, 1848, d Jul 14, 1884, "The Lord is My Shepherd"

7. Hicks

Infant, s/o George II and Nancy J., b & d Dec 14, 1891, "It was an angel that visited the green earth and took a flower away"







### UNMARKED GRAVES

Mrs. Peter Brooner

Luann Morris

A Foster brother

Mr. Huff (Dora Krause's father)

Tom Summers (a soldier)

Rosie Huff

Mr. Huff (Mike's father)

Truvill's twin (Mrs. Mary Woods of Lincoln City mentioned this twin was a boy)

Smith children (two)

Mrs. Merrit and child

Cad and Cord Rice's children

Main children (four)

Charlie McKasson

Persinger child

Elizabeth Wesson

W. T. Morris, Jr.

Mrs. Taylor


Levi Hall

Nancy Hanks Hall

Elizabeth Sparrow

Thomas Sparrow

The names on this list have been contributed by local citizens having knowledge of the burials in the cemetery.



**EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA**

"The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage."



# NANCY HANKS LINCOLN

February 5, 1784- October 5, 1818

Within the boundaries of Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial lies the gravesite of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, Abraham Lincoln's mother. The impact of her life, and her death, did much to shape the character of the boy who grew up to become President. The desire to commemorate her life has done much to shape the development of the national memorial.

Nancy Hanks was born on February 5, 1784, in Campbell County, Virginia, but details of her early life are scarce. By the time she was nine years old, she had become an orphan, though it is not clear what happened to her parents. Following their deaths, she lived with the Richard Berry family. Berry was evidently an uncle and, by all accounts, a person of standing in the community. More importantly, the Berrys accepted Nancy as one of their own and provided for her a stable, nurturing home environment.

It was while living with the Berrys that Nancy came to know Thomas Lincoln, who lived on a nearby farm. Over the years, their friendship grew into something more and on June 12, 1806, the two were married. Their first child, Sarah, was born on February 10, 1807. On February 12, 1809, a son named Abraham was born. A third child, Thomas Jr., died in infancy.

During the first ten years of their marriage, the Lincolns occupied three different farms in Kentucky, but boundary disputes caused them to lose all three. Thomas finally decided to move his family to Indiana where he could establish a clear claim to his property under the provisions of the Northwest Land Ordinance. In the winter of 1816, they settled in present-day Spencer County in what became known as the Little Pigeon community.

Carving a new life out of the Indiana wilderness was not an easy task for the pioneer family. After spending the winter in a temporary shelter, Thomas and young Abraham built a sturdy log cabin, utilizing the plentiful hardwood forest for building materials. As was customary on the frontier, Nancy helped with the work of clearing the land and tending the crops, as well as caring for her two young children. It was a demanding life for all of them and it was necessary for everyone to make their contribution in order for the family to succeed.

In addition to the hard work, life on the frontier often included tragedy as well. The Lincoln family was not immune to the many hazards that threatened all pioneers in the 19th century. The autumn frosts of 1818 had already colored the foliage of the huge trees of oak, hickory, and walnut when neighbors of the Lincolns became desperately ill, stricken with the dreaded milk sickness. The disease resulted when cows ate the white snakeroot plant and the poison from the plant contaminated the milk. People who drank this poisoned milk or ate its products faced death, though that was not clearly known by the pioneers at the time. Nancy became ill when she went to help care for her sick neighbors. On October 5, 1818, within two weeks of the first symptoms, Abraham's mother died.

Death in a one-room log cabin was a grim experience for the survivors. Nancy's body was prepared for burial in the very room in which the family lived. Thomas and nine-year old Abraham whipsawed logs into planks, and with wooden pegs they fastened the boards together into a coffin. After the body was properly prepared and dressed by the neighbor women, it was placed into the casket. Nancy was then taken to her final resting-place on the hill just south of the family's farm. Thomas probably followed pioneer custom and placed fieldstones at the head and foot of the grave and may have carved the letters, N.L., into the headstone.

It is impossible to accurately assess the full impact of Nancy's life on Abraham Lincoln. The people who touch our lives do so in a variety of ways. But by all accounts she had been a fine and loving mother. Undoubtedly she left her mark on the young boy in the countless small and intimate ways that mothers do with their children. The experience of her death also prepared her son for facing the tragedy and loss that is a part of life as well. The intangible effects of both her life and her death



became a part of Abraham's life and helped shape the man he became.

It was the understanding that we all share the universal experience of having our lives touched by others that motivated people in the late 19th and early 20th centuries to begin their efforts to preserve Nancy's final resting place, both as a tribute to her and to her son. Those efforts began with a desire to permanently mark her grave and led, ultimately, to the creation of the National Memorial that exists today. Abraham Lincoln, the man, was the sum total of all the experiences and people that had been a part of his life. This is true for each of us as well. Understanding and appreciating how his mother helped shape him can help us better understand who he was. It can also, by extension, help us to better understand who we are by making us appreciate those who have been part of our lives.

---

#### EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

"The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage."

# SARAH BUSH JOHNSTON LINCOLN

December 13. 1788- December 10. 1869

Abraham Lincoln's stepmother, Sarah Bush Johnston Lincoln, was born in Elizabethtown, Kentucky and came from a flourishing family. Her father, Christopher Bush, was "...a stirring, industrious man, and had a large family of sons and daughters." In March 1806, she married Daniel Johnston. Unfortunately, Johnston did not have the same kind of industriousness that his in-laws had and he was soon deeply in debt. When he died in 1816, Sarah was left with many of these obligations still outstanding. For the next several years she did her best to support herself and her three children.

In 1819, Thomas Lincoln returned to Elizabethtown, a widower himself by this time, with hopes of finding a new wife and mother for his children. Having known Sarah before he moved to Indiana, and knowing she was a widow, he paid her a visit and asked her to marry him. Sarah replied that she could not marry him until she had paid her debts. Upon hearing this, Thomas agreed to pay the debts himself. Once that was done, he and Sarah were married on December 2, 1819. Sarah and her three children, John, Matilda, and Elizabeth returned with Thomas to Indiana, where Sarah set about making the two families into one.

She found the country to be "wild and desolate" but the log cabin that Thomas had build was "good, tolerably comfortable." She soon discovered that her new stepson was very intelligent and had a passion for knowledge; he was especially fond of reading. Consequently, her gift to him of three books left an indelible impression on him. Not only was it a priceless treasure to a boy who loved to read on a frontier where books were scarce, but it was an indication to him that Sarah would pick up where his mother had left off in terms of encouraging his quest for knowledge. The two quickly developed a close, intimate, mother-son relationship that would continue for the rest of Abraham's life.

Even as an adult, Abraham remained close to his stepmother, whom he always referred to as "Mother." After the family moved to Illinois and he had gone out on his own he still found time to visit. Mrs. Lincoln reported that she "saw him every year or two." After the death of his father in 1851, Lincoln retained a 40-acre plot of land in his own name "for Mother while she lives," and otherwise tended to her welfare as best he could from a distance. Abraham saw his stepmother for the last time when he visited to bid her farewell before going to Washington for his inauguration. When she later recalled the visit after her stepson's death in 1865, she wept. Sarah died in 1869.

Lincoln said of his stepmother "she proved to be a good and kind mother" to him. By all reports their relationship was excellent, and Mrs. Lincoln considered her stepson a model child who was always honest, witty, and "diligent for knowledge." He never needed a "cross word." In all the vast literature of controversy over Lincoln's early years, there is hardly an unkind word about Sarah Bush Johnston Lincoln.

---

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

"The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage."



# SARAH LINCOLN GRIGSBY

February 10, 1807- January 20, 1828

Sarah Lincoln Grigsby, sister of Abraham Lincoln, would never know her younger brother's success and fame, nor how he would be remembered. As a result of her brother's fame, her own life has become part of our national heritage.

She was born in Elizabethtown, Kentucky, on February 10, 1807. With her younger brother, she attended a basic ABC school taught by Zachariah Riney and later Caleb Hazel. From her mother she learned the arts of spinning, soap making, and cooking over an open fire. Most significant of all, she and her brother listened to stories told by travelers on the Louisville - Nashville road that ran directly in front of the Lincoln cabin. Sarah had the benefit of at least some schooling when many pioneer children learned only the tasks for farming or housekeeping.

When Thomas Lincoln moved his family to Indiana in 1816, Sarah's responsibilities increased. She worked hard to help her mother establish a home on this new frontier. But the autumn frosts of 1818 had already colored the foliage of the huge trees of oak, hickory, maple and walnut when her mother Nancy became desperately ill. Her mother was stricken with milk sickness; a poisoning caused by the plant white snakeroot. Cows ate this abundant weed and passed the poison on in their milk. On October 5, 1818, Nancy died. Death in a one-room cabin in the wilderness was a grim experience for the survivors. Sarah helped the neighbor women prepare, dress, and place her mother's body into the casket. Her mother was then taken to her final resting-place overlooking the Indiana farm she so dearly loved.

Her mother had been kind to Sarah. She had raised her in an environment of love, trust, and understanding. As Sarah matured, she built her life upon this solid foundation.

It was a difficult time for Sarah. She had to take over all the household chores. Her mother's death left Sarah with the formidable task of caring for the house, her father, her brother, and an orphaned 18-year old cousin, Dennis Hanks, whose guardians had also died from the milk sickness. The absence of a mother was very painful for the whole family. When Thomas remarried, to Sarah Bush Johnston, a widow with three children of her own, Sarah had to adjust to having a stepmother and stepbrother and stepsisters. Her new mother did relieve Sarah of much of the domestic labor in the Lincoln household and her new stepsisters and stepbrother became playmates. During her 13th year she attended Andrew Crawford's subscription school. Two years later she attended, infrequently, a school taught by James Swaney. Then, in her 17th year, she attended Azel Dorsey's school. The Lincoln children probably received their best education from him.

Sarah joined the Little Pigeon Baptist Church on April 8, 1826. On August 2, 1826, she married Aaron Grigsby and the new couple moved into a cabin two miles south of the Lincolns. Nine months after their marriage, Sarah announced to her family that she was pregnant. But unknown complications during the delivery claimed both her life and that of her infant child. A neighbor is recorded as saying; "I remember the night she died. My mother was there at the time. She had a strong voice, and I heard her calling her father. He went after a doctor, but it was too late. They let her lay too long." Sarah died January 20, 1828 at the age of 21.

A description of Sarah comes to us from her stepmother who said she was "short of stature and somewhat plump in build, her hair was dark brown and her eyes were gray." John Hanks, a cousin, said, "She was kind, tender, and good natured and is said to have been a smart woman." Her brother-in-law Nathaniel Grigsby said that Sarah "was a woman of extraordinary mine. Her good-humored laugh I can hear now, is as fresh in my mind as if it were yesterday. She could, like her brother, meet and greet a person with the kindest greeting in the world, make you easy at the touch of a word, an intellectual and intelligent woman."

Sarah Lincoln was an important person in Abraham Lincoln's life. When she had started to school,



while the family was living in Kentucky, she had taken Abraham with her and had probably helped him learn his letters and numbers. When their mother died, they helped each other through the grief. Their relationship was characterized by a deep affection. As a neighbor said, "They were close companions and were a great deal alike in temperament." Sarah's kind and loving care of him may have had much to do with Abraham's development of these same traits.

Sarah Lincoln Grigsby, sister of the 16th President, was buried with her infant in her arms in the Little Pigeon Baptist Church cemetery, which is located today in Lincoln State Park. Her husband, Aaron is buried beside her.

---

**EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA**

"The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage."

## THE CABIN SITE MEMORIAL

Indiana celebrated its centennial in December 1916. Among the centennial programs was a thrust to identify locations important to the state's history. In 1917, Spencer County's centennial commission requested the assistance of older residents of the county in determining the exact location of Thomas Lincoln's cabin. Twenty such residents assembled on the historic property and pointed to a site they believed to be correct. A marker was erected on the site on April 28, 1917.

Placement of the bronze cabin site memorial was one of the more notable achievements in the effort to memorialize the Lincoln site. After deciding that it would be inappropriate to construct a replica of the Lincoln cabin, the state hired architect Thomas Hibben, a native of Indiana, to design a suitable monument to mark the site. The state planned a bronze casting in the shape of the historic cabin sill and hearth, to be surrounded by a stone wall. The area was to be formally landscaped. The project was ultimately subcontracted to a company in Munich, Germany.

In May 1933, a Civilian Conservation Corps crew located the historic hearthstones, which were situated in a T-configuration and comprised three layers of stones measuring roughly 18 inches square and 5-6 inches deep. The crew, under the supervision of Horace Weber, excavated the 300 hearthstones, constructed a stone wall around the site and landscaped the grounds. After numerous delays the bronze casting was finally placed on the site in July 1935.

---

### EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

"The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage."

# THE MEMORIAL BUILDING

The Memorial Building, completed in 1943, was designed and built in the spirit of Indiana in 1816. The architect described this spirit as:

*Whatever is built should be a forthright expression of honesty, simplicity and dignity, qualities that we associate with Lincoln and his mother. There should be no false construction or design. Materials should be native and largely hand worked. Design should be suggested by the best practice of the days when Nancy Hanks was a young woman. Not a design suggestive of the log cabins she lived in but a type of structure that might have been built by one of the best builders of the period to commemorate an illustrious pioneer.*

With this philosophy in mind, the building was designed with two halls and a connecting cloister. The resulting Memorial Court features five sculpted panels marking significant periods in the life of Abraham Lincoln. The Memorial is wholly a Hoosier creation, constructed of Indiana limestone and sandstone, with all timber cut from trees native to the area.

The interior walls of **The Abraham Lincoln Hall** are of St. Meinrad sandstone with cherry wainscoting. Thomas Lincoln often used cherry wood in his carpentry work. Solid, hand-hewn yellow poplar trusses support the ceiling of the hall. The joining of the timbers is indicative of the skill of the pioneer craftsman in the cabin construction. The rostrum at the front of the hall and the small balcony at the rear, as well as the pew-type seats are typical of early courthouses and meeting houses.

The Abraham Lincoln Hall is used for meetings, church services, weddings, and other special occasions. The strength and naturalness of this stone and wood hall reflect the grandeur and simplicity of the man, Abraham Lincoln.

The interior of **The Nancy Hanks Lincoln Hall** is reminiscent of early Indiana days. The yellow poplar beams and columns, walnut wainscoting, and pegged oak floor – as well as the huge sandstone fireplace – speak to us of pioneer strength and perseverance. The furnishings and floor covering create a feeling for the simplicity of the modest pioneer home established by Abraham Lincoln's mother.

The table, benches, and chairs are made of selected cherry wood. The large hand-braided rug, especially designed for the hall, and the window bench coverings are based on patterns Nancy Lincoln might have known. The fabric used here is wool, which was one of the most common clothing materials of the frontier. The mural painting over the fireplace depicts the location where the Lincoln's crossed the Ohio River in 1816 as they headed for their new Indiana home.

---

## EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

"The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage."



## THE NANCY HANKS LINCOLN GRAVESITE

In 1868, a Civil War veteran named William Q. Corbin visited the boyhood home of his former commander-in-chief. Corbin was dismayed by the unkempt appearance of Nancy Hanks Lincoln's gravesite and wrote a poem on the subject. His poem, published in the *Rockport Journal* in November 1868, was among the first known public accounts of the grave's condition.

In response to Corbin's poem, several Gentryville businessmen met on December 24, 1869, to discuss erecting a suitable marker. Although nothing came of the meeting, interest in marking the gravesite continued into the 1870s. Another newspaper article, published in the *Rockport Journal* on June 2, 1874, again commented on the poor condition of the site, and again a meeting was called to arrange for a marker. But, as previously, nothing materialized.

Finally, in 1874, a Rockport businessman by the name of Joseph D. Armstrong erected a two-foot tall marker with Nancy Hanks Lincoln's name inscribed on it at the site. By 1879, though, this marker had disappeared and the site was again overgrown with vegetation and almost inaccessible. A newspaper article reporting the neglect prompted Peter E. Studebaker, second vice-president of the Studebaker Carriage Company, to contact Rockport postmaster L. S. Gilkey with instructions to buy the best tombstone available for \$50.00 and place it anonymously on the site. Another \$50.00, solicited from the area residents, paid for an iron fence around the grave.

At the same time this stone was being acquired and prepared, several Cincinnati businessmen were developing Lincoln City. Fortunately, a local resident convinced the developers to donate the half-acre surrounding the gravesite to Spencer County. In June 1880, a ten-man commission was organized to maintain the site.

But the effort proved to be sporadic. By the 1890s, it was reported that the site was again in poor condition. Spencer County residents tried to obtain federal assistance for the maintenance of the site but were opposed by Governor James E. Mount, who maintained that it was a state responsibility. He subsequently called a meeting on June 30, 1897, of several state patriotic organizations, which resulted in the formation of the Nancy Hanks Lincoln Memorial Association, for the purposes of soliciting funds for maintenance of the gravesite and promoting an Indiana memorial to the Lincolns. But, after three years, the Memorial Association had only collected \$56.52.

In 1900, the effort received a boost when United States Senator J. A. Hemenway donated \$100 to the fund and Robert Todd Lincoln gave \$1000 for the care of his grandmother's grave. This stimulated the county to appropriate \$800 for the purchase of 16 acres surrounding the gravesite, which it then donated to the Nancy Hanks Lincoln Memorial Association.

In 1902, following the completion of an elaborate monument at President's Lincoln's grave in Springfield, Illinois, J. S. Culver re-sculpted a discarded stone from the original monument and vault as a monument to Nancy Hanks Lincoln. Governor Winfield T. Durbin, president of the Memorial Association, accepted the massive stone and had it placed in front of the Studebaker marker. The so-called Culver stone was dedicated in a graveside ceremony on October 1, 1902.

In 1906, however, the grave was again reported to be in a deplorable state. The governor called a meeting of the Memorial Association that resulted in the creation of a state commission in 1907. The legislature also appropriated \$5000 for the erection of an ornamental iron fence around the 16-acre park. A landscape architect was hired to prepare design documents for site improvements. In 1909, utilizing those plans, the state cleared the park of dead trees, erected the fence, including an elaborate entrance gate, and built a macadamized road from the highway to the gravesite. The entryway featured life-size lions at the highway entrance, with eagles perched on columns south of the lions, closer to the gravesite. Large stone urns were placed along the roadway to the cemetery.



In 1925, the state assembly created the Lincoln Memorial Commission and authorized it to purchase land and build structures, as needed, and "to prepare and execute plans for erecting a suitable memorial to the memory of Abraham Lincoln at or near his residence in the state." Responsibility for the care of the gravesite was transferred to the Indiana Department of Conservation.

---

**EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA**

"The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage."

# THOMAS LINCOLN

January 7, 1778- January 17, 1851

According to the date on his tombstone, Thomas Lincoln was born on January 7, 1778, although there is evidence he may actually have been born in 1776. His place of birth was in Rockingham County, Virginia, and he was the fourth of five children born to Abraham and Bathsheba Lincoln. Thomas Lincoln moved to the state of Kentucky in the 1780's with his family. In May, 1786, Thomas witnessed the murder of his father by Indians "...when he was laboring to open a farm in the forest." That fall, his mother moved the family to Washington

County, Kentucky (near Springfield), where Thomas lived until the age of eighteen. From 1795 to 1802, Thomas held a variety of jobs in several locations --jobs that increased his earning power and helped to feed the Lincoln family. In 1802 he moved to Hardin County, Kentucky, where one year later, he purchased a 238-acre farm. Four years later, on June 12, 1806, he married Nancy Hanks. Their first child, a daughter named Sarah, was born a year later. In 1808, Thomas bought a 300-acre farm on Nolin Creek. There, on February 12, 1809, his son Abraham was born. A third child, named Thomas, died in infancy.

Thomas was active in community and church affairs in Hardin County. He served as a jury member, a petitioner for a road, and as a guard for county prisoners. He could read a little, was a skilled carpenter, and was a property owner. In 1815 he purchased --for cash --still another farm, the Knob Creek farm. This Knob Creek farm was the first home Abraham Lincoln could remember in later life. Dozens of Kentucky farmers, along with Thomas, fell victim to Kentucky's chaotic land laws. The title to each of the three farms he had purchased proved to be defective. He lost land or money in each case and in disgust moved to Indiana in December 1816. There, the land ordinance of 1785 ensured that land once purchased and paid for was retained. Abraham Lincoln claimed many years later that his father's move from Kentucky to Indiana was "partly on account of slavery, but chiefly on account of the difficulty of land titles in Kentucky." Slavery was outlawed in Indiana. It is interesting to know that in Hardin County, Kentucky, there were 1007 slaves and only 1627 white males over the age of 16 in the year 1811. The Little Mount Separate Baptist Church separated with the Regular Baptist Church over the issue of slave ownership. Thomas Lincoln, a carpenter, farmer, and laborer was forced to compete for wages against wageless workers.

In Indiana, the Lincolns settled near Little Pigeon Creek in what was then Perry County, later part of Spencer County. Here, Thomas farmed and sold his skills as a carpenter. He put his unusually strong and tall eight-year-old son to work --planting, harvesting, cabin building, and wielding an axe. Autumn frosts of 1818 had already colored the foliage of the huge trees of oak, hickory, and walnut when Nancy Lincoln became desperately ill. She was stricken with milk sickness, a poisoning caused by the plant, white snakeroot. Cows occasionally ate this abundant weed and passed the poison on in their milk. People who drank this poisoned milk or ate its products faced death. October 5, 1818. Nancy died.

Left without a wife and mother for his children, the resourceful Thomas remarried on December 2, 1819. He chose a widow from Elizabethtown, Kentucky, Sarah Bush Johnston. These two hardy pioneers, Thomas and Sarah, united their two families. Sarah's three children --Elizabeth, Matilda, and John -- joined Abraham, Sarah, and cousin Dennis Hanks to make a new family of eight. Besides trading his carpentry skills, managing a farm, and looking after his family, Thomas found time during the next few years of his life in Indiana to assist in building the Little Pigeon Baptist Church, become a member of the church, and serve as church trustee. By 1827, Thomas realized his dream by becoming the outright owner of 100 acres of Indiana land.

Fear of white snakeroot poisoning, news of the fertile Illinois soil, and the possible breakup of his family, lured Thomas westward in March 1830. Thomas sold his Indiana land and moved first to Macon County, Illinois, and eventually to Coles County in 1831. His son Abraham left home to make his way the world during the family's move to Coles County. Thomas Lincoln remained a resident of the county for the rest of his life.

Thomas Lincoln's status as a respectable, responsible, and talented citizen is now secure from his detractors. He, no doubt, did leave a mark on his famous son. Thomas was by all accounts well liked by his neighbors and he was a good storyteller, as was his son. Thomas's evident dislike of slavery created an atmosphere in Lincoln's youth that would allow Abraham to say many years later that he could not remember a time when he was not antislavery in sentiment. The house where Thomas Lincoln died in 1851, and where his widow died in 1869, stood three miles from Shiloh Cemetery where they are buried. Thomas Lincoln had reached the age of 73 years. He and his family had lived in the states of Kentucky, Indiana, and Illinois. He had paid his taxes regularly, and left no unpaid debts behind him. He was a good man, a good husband, and a good father.

---

**EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA**

"The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage."



# THE PLANT THAT KILLED ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S MOTHER

Among the many obscure ailments that afflicted Midwestern pioneers, it is doubtful if one has been more shrouded in mystery than was milk sickness. The disease was unknown in Europe or any other continent, occurring only in North America.

White snakeroot is a shade-loving plant found throughout Indiana. It is commonly seen growing on roadsides, in damp open areas, or on the shaded north side of ridges. The plant is also found in western Ohio and the wooded parts of Illinois. These three states probably had the greatest quantity of the weed and probably do so today.

By definition, milk sickness is poisoning by milk from cows that have eaten white snakeroot. Many early settlers in the Midwest came into contact with the sickness. In the fall of 1818, Nancy Hanks Lincoln died as milk sickness struck the Little Pigeon Creek settlement.

The sickness has been called puking fever, sick stomach, the slows, and the trembles. The illness was most common in dry years when cows wandered from poor pastures to the woods in search of food. In man, the symptoms are loss of appetite, listlessness, weakness, vague pains, muscle stiffness, vomiting, abdominal discomfort, severe constipation, bad breath, and finally coma. Recovery is slow and may never be complete, but more often an attack is fatal, as it was for Nancy Hanks Lincoln. She died on October 5, 1818.

While milk sickness usually develops when a person or animal eats the plant, the sickness can also occur if one eats heavily of the flesh of an animal that has died of severe white snakeroot poisoning. Within the present century persons have suffered and died from milk sickness in parts of Indiana, Ohio, and Illinois. It is written that more than half of the deaths that occurred early in the 19th century in Dubois County, Indiana, were caused by milk sickness.

In the library of the Surgeon General in Washington, D.C. are some 200 articles pertaining to milk sickness, many of them in medical journals. Until the present century, few people -- including physicians -- knew much of the sickness. Milk sickness or "trembles" was more prevalent in late summer and early fall, but records show that many cases occurred in the winter and early summer also. In late summer, when the plant is in full bloom, it is easily recognized, growing to a height of 18 to 48 inches, more woodlands were cleared, cattle had adequate pasture even in dry weather. As a result the incidence of the disease tapered off. The mixing of milk from many cows at the dairy further reduces the chances of milk sickness today.

---

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

"The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage."

LN-O18 Rev. 8187



# THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

...

# THE SCULPTURED PANELS OF THE LINCOLN BOYHOOD NATIONAL MEMORIAL

Among the more outstanding features of the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial are the five sculptured panels of the Memorial Building. They are the work of E. H. Daniels, who also designed the bust of Lincoln located in the Nancy Hanks Lincoln Hall of the building. Below is a guide to the interpretation of these bas-reliefs which illustrate the steps in Abraham Lincoln's life that progressively brought him from a cabin to the White House.

## KENTUCKY PANEL: 1809-1816. The Childhood Years of Lincoln.

The Kentucky panel illustrates the years of Lincoln's life spent on the Sinking Spring and Knob Creek farms. On the far left dressed in the style of the frontier is Jesse LaFollette, grandfather of Wisconsin Senator Robert M. LaFollette and neighbor of the Lincolns at Knob Creek. Beside him stands Thomas Lincoln, father of the President. Seated is Dr. Christopher Columbus Graham, doctor, scientist, and visitor at the Lincoln home. His stories fascinated Abe, who is pictured here at the age of seven. Behind the boy is his mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln. Sarah, his only sister, stands at the chum. On the far right is Caleb Hazel, Lincoln's second schoolteacher.

## INDIANA PANEL: 1816-1830. The Boyhood Days of Lincoln.

This panel depicts Lincoln as a youth, but fully grown and capable of doing a man's job. At the extreme left is James Gentry, wealthy farmer and merchant.

Abe was a frequent visitor in his home. Next to him is Josiah Crawford. Lincoln worked for him three days to pay for a book he borrowed which was damaged by rain. Behind Abe, "The Railsplitter," holding a hewn log are Aaron Grigsby, husband of Lincoln's sister, and Dennis Hanks, his mother's cousin. To the right is James Gentry's son Allen who was Lincoln's companion on a trip down the Mississippi River to New Orleans. Beside him is Thomas Lincoln's second wife, Sarah Bush Lincoln.

## ILLINOIS PANEL: 1830-1861. The Years of Political Ascendancy.

Here Lincoln is shown receiving congratulations from his friends and associates on his election to the United States House of Representatives in 1846. John Stuart, his first law partner, is on the left. Next is Stephen T. Logan, a later law partner. Grasping Lincoln's hand is his close friend, Joshua Speed, the merchant. Between Lincoln and Speed is William Herndon. To the right and behind the beardless Lincoln sits editor Simon Francis. The woman behind him is Mary Todd Lincoln, and the last figure is Lincoln's friend, Orville H. Browning, who served as United States Senator and in the cabinet of Andrew Johnson as Secretary of the Interior.

## WASHINGTON PANEL: 1861-1865. The Years of Command.

In the Washington panel the sculptor has chosen Lincoln's career as Civil War President for his subject. The President is pictured with General Ulysses S. Grant at Grant's headquarters in Petersburg, Virginia, near the close of the war. The other figures are soldiers symbolic of the many brave men who made victory possible.

## CENTRAL PANEL: "And Now He Belongs to the Ages."

These historic words of the President's Secretary of War, Edwin M. Stanton, are a reminder of the heritage left to the men and women of all time to come. The figures in the panel represent some of the people to whom Lincoln will forever belong-the farmer, the laborer, the family, the freedman. At the

right of Lincoln stands Cleo, Muse of History, holding a scroll on which the deeds of the Emancipator are recorded. Beside her is Columbia offering the wreath of laurel, tribute of a nation to its leader. In the background a cabin and the White House serve as symbols of American opportunity.

## THE INSCRIPTIONS

The nine inscriptions above the sculptured panels on the wall forming the Memorial Court were selected from Abraham Lincoln's writings to illustrate some of the beliefs which he held. The complete inscriptions are given below:

### No. 1. A SUPREME BEING

And having thus chosen our course, without guile, and with pure purpose, let us renew our trust in God.

Message to Congress, July 4, 1861.

### No. 2. PEACE

To do all which may achieve and cherish a just, and lasting peace among ourselves, and with all nations.

Second Inaugural Address, March 4, 1865.

### No. 3. LABOR

Labor is the great source from which nearly all, if not all, human comforts and necessities are drawn.

Cincinnati Address, September 17, 1859.

### No. 4. LIBERTY

Surely each man has as strong a motive now, to preserve our liberties, as each had then, to establish them.

Message to Congress, July 4, 1861.

### No. 5. DEMOCRACY

And that government of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

Gettysburg Address, November 19, 1863.

### No. 6. FRIENDSHIP

We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection.

First Inaugural Address, March 4, 1861.

### No. 7. LAW AND ORDER

It will then have been proved that among free men there can be no successful appeal from the ballot to the bullet.

Letter to James C. Conkling, August 26, 1863.

### No. 8. RIGHT AND DUTY

Have faith that right makes might, and in that faith, let us to the end, dare to do our duty as we understand it.

Cooper Institute Address, February 27, 1860.

#### No.9. THE UNION

I hold that, in contemplation of universal law and of the Constitution, the Union of these States is perpetual.

First Inaugural Address, March 4, 1861.

---

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

"The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage."





# LINCOLN LIVING HISTORICAL FARM

People from around the globe visit Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial to learn more about Abraham Lincoln and see the place where his formative years were spent. Here in Spencer County, Indiana, he grew from boy to young manhood on the American frontier. Here he played, learned to work, developed manual skills, received his early education and love of learning, shared a family life, earned his first dollar, and experienced love and tragedy. Despite a humble beginning, he became President of the United States and a world-renowned hero of democracy.

The Lincoln Living Historical Farm does not retain any of the original structures from his time but was built in an attempt to depict a typical farm of his period in Indiana. It incorporates some of what is known of the Lincoln farm and activities which were a common part of the Lincoln family's daily life.

The operation of the farm consists of component parts which comprise one integrated demonstration. The main theme depicts self-sufficiency and man in his natural environment. The seasons and the weather are an important part of the demonstration. Everything the Lincolns raised and used was either totally consumed or recycled. Nothing was wasted. They derived their living from the land and forest around them.

Each part of the farm operation is related to tasks which precede and follow it. Take, for example, the making of linen or "tow" cloth. First the ground is prepared and flax is sown. At maturity the plants are pulled from the ground and laid to rot the outer husk. Next it is "broken," "scutched," and "hetcheled." Only at this point is the fiber ready to be spun into linen thread. Next comes the weaving which produces the cloth which can be cut and sewn into garments. The complete process of "seed to shirt" takes many months and many separate operations.



The staff of the Lincoln Living Historical Farm dresses in period clothing to demonstrate the daily activities at the farm. These activities include domestic arts and crafts, animal husbandry, farming, gardening, and whatever else needs doing.

Visitors can see people doing the same things the Lincolns did when they lived here. During the course of each day there are a number of things that have to be done, such as chopping firewood, feeding the animals, and milking the cow.

But the rest of the pioneers' time is spent talking to visitors and putting on a variety of optional demonstrations. No one does the same thing every day. Some things that are done are cooking, sewing, quilt-making, working in the garden and fields, splitting rails, and riving shingles. The rest of the program --plowing, planting, cultivating, and harvesting of the crops, is done by a demonstration farmer as part of his regular farming activities. The concept of the farm operation is one of a continuous hour-by-hour, day-by-day living display.

The farm is open seven days a week, late April through October, with personnel on duty. During the balance of the year, the farm becomes an exhibit in place with the buildings closed.

Also located on the farm is the Lincoln Cabin Site Memorial, erected by the State of Indiana and the Indiana Lincoln Union on the traditional site of one the Lincoln cabins. It consists of a bronze casting of cabin sill logs and fireplace, surrounded by a stone retaining wall.

---

**EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA**

"The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage."



Lincoln  
Boyhood

National Memorial







**Oxford.**

 **ESSELTE**

10%



UNION EXHIBIT NATIONAL MEMORIAL: BPOC

DRAWER 11A

MEMORIAL



